Eight candidates run for six board directorships

MECA annual owners and board meetings

Tuesday, Sep. 11
7:30 pm — Windjammer Room

The election of six new directors will be held during the Malibu East Annual Owners Meeting. Marcel Molins, president of the Malibu East Board, will give his annual state of the association address, and committee chairs will present their annual reports.

A short monthly board of directors meeting will follow the owners meeting for the election of officers of the board of directors for the 2001-2002 term.

Candidate credentials

Garrett L. Arky
New owner with service on the board of a 570-unit condo and as president of two townhome associations. Real estate paralegal experience.

Charles Cooper
New owner with 18 years’ experience as a consultant in information technology field. Also has experience in real estate and property management.

Janice Krzesinski
Recently retired Southwestern Bell Corp. director of Ameritech negotiations. MBA with property damage and personal injury claims, budgets and project management background.

JoAnne Meshboum
Seven-year resident (husband is leaving the board) who recently retired after a career as a managing director in investment banking.

Martina G. Molins
30-year multiple-unit resident owner with M. E. board, law and real estate experience. Believes in responsible, conservative spending of MECA funds.

June Shriver
Wants to create a forum for all owners to have a voice. Good listener and communicator. Member Aesthetics Committee. Information technology professional.

Richard Strauss
Board member since 1991. Served as 2nd Vice Pres., Chair Finance Committee, member Grievance Committee, is in charge of balcony/exterior façade repairs.

Thomas C. Vaughan
Served eight years on MECA boards. 35-year business background as a bank lending officer and as an independent consultant to business management.

The candidate credentials listed above are either the summaries of the official individual candidate forms or additional materials supplied by the candidate. All candidates were given the opportunity to rewrite the summaries.

RCN cable TV billing

Residents who have more than one cable box or purchase PPV movies received a bill from RCN detailing new payment options. The changes were rather ambiguous and left out this important part:

You do not have to make any changes! Your current payment method, mailing a check to RCN, 135 S LaSalle D8103, Chicago, IL 60674-8103 in the included envelope, is still available.

Source: Office of Cable Communications, City of Chicago (312) 744-4052.

'Town Crier' announcements

by Betty Mayian

We welcome all new residents to our building, including:

We have a new member to add to the Malibu East family, was born in August. Congratulate his parents and brother when you see them.

If you have information concerning talented or famous MECA residents, please contact the Dialogue.
MECA board meeting notes
by Elaine Winans

MECA board meeting
Tuesday, August 28

Attendance: 9 board members, 2 management representatives and 18 residents
Absent: Allan Eckhardt, Martina Molins, Richard Strauss

OPEN FORUM 1

Resident comments and questions:
1) Are the rumors about a special assessment true? No, the board is not considering a special assessment, but a hefty increase in regular assessments of 8 or 9% is being considered to rebuild our reserves.
2) My A-tier balcony is still incomplete, not even the forms are in. When will it be done? Our engineers have found much more additional work that needed to be done. The estimates based on previous work were misleading. Our expectations are still that all of the concrete work will be done this year depending on weather.
3) What is the status of sliding glass door replacement? Our engineers have approved the sample window. Residents will be contacted with prices and a time frame.
4) Will the A-tier south side be reinspected? Yes, and there are still repairs to be done there as well as on the L and C tiers.
5) Is there a warranty on concrete work? Yes, on the workmanship but not on the life expectancy of the concrete.
6) What is our owner occupancy? About 92% owner-occupied.
7) Residents made several suggestions concerning cleaning.
8) Who is responsible for repair/replacement of the marble entrance lintel? The unit owner.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Financial statement
Balance on hand, cash and reserves — $2,913,278

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1) Floor Representatives
Committee suggestions to board
a) Newspaper containers be placed in bulk rooms.
b) Use of common-area key be extended to the bicycle and exercise rooms.
Next meeting Oct. 2.

2) Social
Send suggestions for changes or improvements to our annual holiday party to Sandy Chaet.

3) Commercial Unit
Potential tenant for CU, a fitness center. Every tenant has signed the new leases. Some movement has been made on handicapped accessibility for the CU and the building.

4) Architecture & Aesthetics
We are interviewing architecture firms and developing a master plan for the lower level, lobbies, CU, Windjammer Room, hallway, elevators and lobby redecorating. This will include fire and safety and handicapped issues.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Items requiring board action
1) 2001 Annual Owners Meeting
All committee chairs are asked to prepare a report for the annual meeting.

Items not requiring board action
1) Unit sales
   4G $165,000
   21F $198,000
   22H $215,000
   25M $149,900

2) Garage report
   Claims
   Approved: 2
   Denied: 3
   Total: 5

   Waiting lists
   Single self-park: 91
   Tandem self-park: 0
   Second car: 4

   Monthly parkers
   Valet: 323
   Tandem: 72
   Single: 142
   Preferred: 3
   Engineer: NC
   Motorcycle: 3
   Total: 543

   New monthlies: 3
   Cancellations: 2

3) Building survey progress
A results summary will be shared with residents through the Dialogue. The board will take up issues in the report.

4) Collection of emergency data
225 units have responded. The remaining units will be sent a request with an explanation of the benefits to them.

The meeting ended at 9:30 pm and went into closed session.

NOTICE
MECA annual owners and board meetings
Tuesday, Sep. 11
7:30 pm — Windjammer Room
Community Calendar
by Rose Wandel

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

BERGER PARK CULTURAL CENTER
Kid’s Computer Club
FREE for kids 11-13
10 am to noon Saturdays
Starts Aug 8.
Parent must register child

INTERNET DSL ACCESS & LESSONS
Coming soon, call for details
773-761-5792

FREE computer time
Call 773-761-5792 for info.

LET US ENTERTAIN YOU TRIO
Concert
Sun., Sep. 16, 2-3 pm FREE

MAD SHAK DANCE CO.
Live at 6205
Fri., Sep. 21, 7 pm FREE
6205 N. Sheridan Rd.
312-742-7871

EDGEWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
House walk tour
Highlands area — tours start at
6042 N. Paulina Ave.
Call 773-907-1872 for info.
$12, Sep. 16, noon to 5 pm.

EDGEWATER MEDICAL CENTER
Senior Center programs
5700 N. Ashland Ave.
773-797-1095

EDGEWATER PUBLIC LIBRARY
CAPS 24th Dist. Beat #33SD
Come meet our beat police.
Wednesday, Sep. 5, 7 pm
(1st Wed. of every month)

INTERNET BASICS
Learn mouse skills, www, e-mail
1st Sat. of month
1210 W. Elmdale
312-744-0718

NORTH LAKESIDE CULTURAL CENTER
Works in Progress
Exhibit featuring works in progress.
Opening night, Sep. 14
Discussion, refreshments
Sep. 14 thru Oct. 25
6219 N. Sheridan Rd.
773-743-4477

NORTH PARK VILLAGE NATURE CENTER
5801 N. Pulaski
312-744-5472

PAPERMAKING WORKSHOP
For parents and children.
$10 per person, must register.
Sep. 8, 10 am – 12:30 pm

PRAIRIE PLANT ILLUSTRATION
Adult 4-week drawing class by a professional artist.
$25 per person, must register.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
STAR WATCH (if sky is clear)
Equipment furnished.
8 pm, Sep. 5, 23, 26
Call 773-725-5618 for weather.

AUDUBON SOCIETY
BIRD WALK
8 am Sat., Sep. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
773-539-6793

PUBLIC PROGRAM
7 pm Sep. 14
Call for details.

CHICAGO TURTLE CLUB
OPEN HOUSE
See, learn turtle activities.
1-3:30 pm, Sun., Sep. 30

SWEDISH AMERICAN MUSEUM CENTER
“SEEDS & ASHES”
A window toward nature —
paintings, lithographs, textiles and glass by Birgitta Watz. Items for sale.
Thru Nov.
5211 N. Clark St.

773-728-8111

WARREN PARK
The Spirit of International Friendship
Noon to 8 pm, Sep. 8/9
6601 N. Western
773-743-6022

WHITE CRANE WELLNESS CENTER
Adult day wellness programs for 60 and over. Gentle yoga, tai chi, music exercise, socializing, lunch and snacks. Transportation provided within boundary area.
1355 W. Foster Ave.
773-271-9001

MECA EVENTS/MEETINGS
Dialogue Committee meeting
Tuesday, Sep. 18
7:30 pm — Community Room

THURSDAY AFTERNOON DISCUSSION GROUP
Thursday, Sep. 20
(every 3rd Thurs. of month)
2:00 pm — Community Room

MECA ANNUAL OWNERS AND BOARD MEETINGS
Tuesday, Sep. 11
7:30 pm — Windjammer Room

FLOOR REPRESENTATIVES MEETING
Tuesday, Oct. 2
7:30 pm — Community Room

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

The Thursday afternoon discussion group
by Ilse Siegler and Ruth Betty Spilky

Fall is in the air and once again we will begin our monthly discussion group. We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 2 pm in the Community Room on the 4th floor. Coffee and … is served.

We want to welcome back all of our old friends and invite anyone interested to join us. Let’s get together and have fun! For more information, leave your name and phone number at the front desk.

Our upcoming meeting dates:
Sep. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20
Community updates

The resurfacing of Glenlake east of Sheridan is completed. The seawall planter was reconfigured and dirt and low-maintenance plantings are in.

New signs directing bikes to Kenmore and Winthrop have been installed at Ardmore and will also be installed by Loyola U. at Winthrop and Devon (technically this is “East Sheridan Rd.”). We are targeting Winthrop in order to get the bikers going south on Winthrop before they have a chance to ride on the E. Sheridan sidewalks going east to the curve. Also scheduled for September at Ardmore is the reconstruction of the street from the end of the bike path to Sheridan, including the painting of bike lanes, the installation of a bike route map and a new planter in the middle of the street just east of the 5801 and 5757 driveways. The purpose of the planter is to prevent motor vehicles from driving into the bike path.

Bike lanes will also be painted for the first time on Kenmore and Winthrop from Ardmore to Granville. The new bike lanes are striped from Ardmore to Granville since the official bike path goes on Granville west, it doesn’t go north of Granville on Kenmore or Winthrop.

Source: Ernie Constantino, 48th Ward Alderman’s office

Request for community action

by Sandy Chaet

ASCO has reviewed the request from concerned people about having air-conditioned buses and the service of the 147 on Sunday. The Sunday #147 has been considered by the CTA, but no result has been seen. Again, more contact from the community is needed in the form of letters or phone calls about these issues. The address is: Chicago Transit Authority, attention Mr. Frank Kreusi, 222 Merchandise Plaza, Chicago, IL. Call 60654 312-664-7200 ext 3021.

It should also be noted that there are some new single buses purchased by the CTA that are roomier and accommodate the handicapped and wheelchairs. One hundred of these buses have been purchased; some have been seen on Pulaski. Ask Mr. Kreusi to put some of them on Sheridan Road. Your input to the CTA will make a difference.

New look for the lobby

by Larry Creter, Architecture & Aesthetics Committee

Our lobby seating area will soon sport a new look. The design proposal presented by the Architecture & Aesthetics Committee to replace our worn-out chairs and area rug won approval at the July board meeting. The design features a classic oriental rug in red, blue, gray and tan. Also on the way are four new chairs with contemporary curved wood arms and a durable dark blue fabric covering to complement the colors in the rug. The coffee table will be updated with a larger rectangular glass top. The existing bench seats and fabric will work nicely with the new decor.

The committee is also investigating more durable floor covering options for the mailroom and entrance vestibule that would complement the new seating. The new furniture should arrive in mid-October.

The committee continues its task of developing a master decorating plan to be used as a guide for the look of all common areas. The goal is to have a plan in place so that hallway refurbishing can begin in stages as budgeted funds allow after the completion of our exterior restoration project. The committee will guide an interior architect through the development of the plan. Although the lobby seating design was completed before the master plan, the look is classic and contemporary and should work into a new plan or be reworked at a later stage of the project.

If you wish to help in this project or have ideas or suggestions, please leave that information with the management office to the attention of the Architecture & Aesthetics Committee. Future meeting dates will be announced.

Odd Jobs

by Jack Winans

Here I go, sticking my neck out and recommending a fix-it service. I had picked up Odd Jobs’ brochure at the spring Sudler trade show. I talked to the representative and he offered recommendations. But as they say, the proof is in the pudding, so Elaine and I put them to the test. We had three jobs that were left over from last year’s botched remodeling. We had given up on our remodeling company and went to great lengths to make sure that their reputation was ruined by reporting them to various agencies and to the Internet service that had recommended them.

We had a special bi-fold door built for a wall closet. It was evidently too heavy for the track that they installed and it kept falling out. We needed to finish upgrading the telephone wall sockets in the den, and an “instant heater” under the kitchen sink for the hot water tap wasn’t working.

We called Odd Jobs on a Thursday; they called back that Friday with an estimate. A service provider came on time the following Monday and finished all the work within 2½ hours. We were completely satisfied with the work, and the final price was about two-thirds of the original estimate.

Their prices are not inexpensive, but the service they provide is excellent. They say that no job is too small, and all of their work is insured and their crew is fully bonded. Call me for a brochure explaining their service. Basically they do carpentry, cleaning, electrical, home organizers, painting, plumbing and more.
The weather has kept the staff very busy over the past few weeks. Torren-til rain flooded the laundry room Thursday, Aug. 2. Once again, your staff did a terrific job under very trying conditions, cleaning up the mess in the entire lower level. The laundry room was back in service by noon on Friday after our vendor inspected the laundry room equipment.

The pool will stay open after Labor Day as weather permits. Residents swimming after Labor Day will do so at their own risk because there will not be guards on duty. When the pool closes for the season, pool-closing notices will be posted on channel 95 and in the building. All of the lifeguards want to extend their thanks and appreciation to the residents for their cooperation and support throughout the pool season.

The Glenlake project is completed including the planting at the lake end of the street. The final paving phase was completed Monday, Aug. 27, and the new street looks great!

The exterior fascia and balcony project is progressing, and residents can check the chart in the lobby next to the ramp door for an update on their tier. The east side of the building is currently in the cement-pouring phase, and the south side of the building is currently in the pinning and forming phase. Residents can continue to use their A/C units until further notice, and residents can contact the office if they need their A/C units uncovered.

The garage-painting project, consisting of painting all the walls and pillars in the garage, will begin soon. Pillar coverings will be removed during the project in order to paint the pillars. Unfortunately, we will not be able to reinstall the coverings after the painting is completed.

The Board of Directors is working very hard on the 2002 budget and it is are having a very difficult time providing funds for all the work that will be needed on the garage, roof and exterior wall repairs in 2002. Although the board is still working on the 2002 proposed budget, it appears there will be an increase in the monthly assessments that is higher than in 2001. The 2002 budget meeting is scheduled for October 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the Windjammer Room and all unit owners are encouraged to attend.

The Annual Owners Meeting is Tuesday, Sep. 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Windjammer Room. Eight candidates are competing for the six positions open on the Board of Directors. Election materials were mailed Aug. 9. Contact the management office if you have not received your voting packet.
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- Excellent references in your building/neighborhood.

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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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