

Malibu East Dialogue

August 2002

Your Communication and Information Resource

Malibu summer events draw large crowds

Children's party

by Beth Robinson

Children and their parents celebrated the beginning of summer at Malibu East's "School's Out, Summer's Here" children's party June 29 in the Windjammer Room. The oldest of the 23 children who attended was 14, and the youngest was 10 months old. Partygoers played games, drew summer scenes, "fished" with magnetic fishing poles and enjoyed refreshments. A big hit was a race in which each child balanced a hardboiled egg on a spoon gripped in their teeth. Each child went home with a goodie bag filled with little treats. Feedback at the end of the party indicated parents would like to have similar events in the future to give children a chance to socialize.

The MECA Parent Committee planned the party with a committee of children — Aamir Merchant, Amber Elahi, Arubia Elahi, Lauren Rojas, Elaine Rojas, Johanna Flores and Maya Flores — who chose the theme, games and refreshments for the party. The Children's Committee also distributed the party flyers and constructed a large paper chain to decorate the walls for the party. The Parent Committee would welcome the involvement of adults and children interested in helping to plan future parties. Please leave your name and unit number in the management office for the Parent Committee.

Article	page
Board meeting	2
Management report	3
Annual meeting	4
48th Ward report	4
Understanding budget	5
Community Calendar	6
Balcony Man	9

Safety meeting

by Larry Creter

An overflow crowd filled the Windjammer Room on June 26 for an informative life safety seminar presented by the MECA Security Committee. Before the event, residents received a folder containing safety information, including the Malibu East evacuation plan. Ila Chaiken welcomed residents and introduced the program, which began with an overview of our building emergency plan presented by Vito Senese. Vito stressed the point that the fire, police or other department on the scene must be and is in complete charge and will give the appropriate orders.

In the event of an emergency, a command center is established at the doorman's station where information will be available, including the special needs of some residents. Directions and instructions will be distributed via the intercom system, that is, your telephone from the command center or in person at your door. It was stressed that you remain in your apartment until instructions are given. Please familiarize yourself with details of the plan and the evacuation route. New signage will be installed in the hallways to mark the exits and illustrate floor plans for the exits.

The audience viewed a video about fire safety and fire extinguisher use preceding an enjoyable talk about personal safety by Malibu East resident Edward Widmer. Mr. Widmer currently serves as the president of the United Nations Association of the United States for the State of Illinois. Ed has also been a representative to the recent United Nations conferences and consultations on the issues of globalization and terrorism. His work career was in the field of international diplomatic security, counter



terrorism and executive protection. He served with the Bureau of Diplomatic Security of the State Department and has also provided security services for 20 countries, the United Nations and Fortune 500 multinational corporations. For 25 years, Ed was managing director of a security firm based in Guyana. He served on the National Police Commission and was appointed a special advisor to the president of that country on aspects of racial, ethnic and religious harmony and stability. Ed has also provided security evaluations and protective services for the Carter Center, involving its worldwide efforts toward democratization and the transition to free and fair elections. Now located in Chicago, Ed conducts seminars on policing and security issues, conflict resolution, violence prevention, multiculturalism and diversity training. His talk at this safety seminar gave helpful tips on being aware and what to do and not to do when out and about our building and neighborhood.

At special tables in the back of the room, attendees could purchase safety equipment such as fire extinguishers, smoke alarms and a very interesting "personal preparedness kit" called Evac-U-Aide. The kit included a drawstring bag containing a respirator with P100 filters, a flashlight with siren, ventless goggles, a 12-hour light strip, and nitrile gloves.

The committee plans another presentation by the Chicago Fire Department on fire safety issues on Wednesday, Aug 7. Watch for the details.

MECA board meeting notes

by Elaine Winans

MECA board meeting Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Attendance: 9 board members, 2 management representatives, 15 residents. Not present: Allan Eckhardt, Jo Anne Meshboum, Scott Young. President Molins opened the meeting by reading a resignation from director Allan Eckhardt for personal reasons. The board by acclamation accepted his resignation with regrets and thanked him on behalf of the building for all the services rendered at Malibu East.

OPEN FORUM 1

Resident comments and questions:

- 1) A resident remarked that she could hear "drilling" noise during pool hours weekday afternoons and Sundays. *The construction logs will be checked for this type of activity, but it could be from next door or an individual unit doing remodeling.*
- 2) Resident remarked that hallway air was not being circulated during the hotter days. *The fans that circulate air are on the roof of the building and are turned off when rooftop temperatures exceed 100°F.*
- 3) Will the cable go up or stay at \$11.60 when our current contract ends? *Due to the increase in competition in this area, we are confident that we can arrange a contract between our current rates and those of single occupancy rates as a provider providing us with a bulk package has the opportunity for extra sales of extra boxes, cable Internet and pay for view TV.*

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial statement

Reported by V.P. Richard Strauss
Balance on hand, cash and reserves — \$2,236,488.99.

Mr. Strauss commented that a \$200,000 bill was due and the remaining cost of the balcony/ exterior project was \$750,000, which will cut deeply into the sec-

ond million of our reserve fund.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1) *Floor Representatives*
Chairman Ila Chaiken
Only four people attended the last meeting. We will have one more meeting Oct. 4 and then will decide if the committee should continue.
- 2) *Security*
Reported by Larry Creter
The safety seminar was attended by an overflow crowd. (See stories, pgs. 1 & 3.) A Fire Awareness Education Program representative from the CFD will speak at the

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.

next safety seminar at 7pm, Aug. 7 in the Windjammer Room.

- 3) *Social*
Chairman Sandy Chaet
Two events are scheduled: Candidates Night Aug. 28 and a Bears tailgate party Oct. 27. (See story, page 8)
- 4) *Commercial Property*
In response to a request by the owner, the Convenient Store space will be reduced by one-third. This will create an additional smaller space for a new business. In a 2nd survey concerning the construction of new storage lockers, the original respondents responded with requests for 11 single spaces, four double spaces and five triple size spaces. The projected annual income on these numbers is \$14,480.
- 5) *Architecture & Aesthetics*
Chairman Larry Creter
The sample signing required by the city to place a floor plan in each elevator lobby and each floor will be ready next month. \$2,000 was approved for the redecorating of the garage waiting room to include painting, four new chairs, new carpeting, redoing the counter, new

posters and a container for an artificial tree.

- 6) *ASCO*
Sandy Chaet
More new planters will be installed on Sheridan Road. The lot by El Lago is still in litigation; we are hoping this will become a park. The Granville/Broadway property is still in limbo.
- 7) *Communications*
Tom Vaughan
The Dialogue is still in the black as of July. Channel 95 is greatly improved.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Items requiring board action

- 1) *Building survey summary*
 - a) **Management problem solving**
Vito Senese will attend a management training seminar Sep. 4.
 - b) **Elevator music**
We have increased our library of music. Our choices are limited as any public building using copyrighted music is subject to litigation by lawyers who represent musicians' organizations.
 - c) **Guest parking**
We set our guest parking rates using a survey of garages in and out of this area. We use external data to aid us in setting our rates so that we are competitive and yet do not lose money. Residents are encouraged to use parking coupons available in the management office, which are offered at a savings, as the coupons are not subject to the city tax on parking.
- 2) **2003 budget meeting dates**
Aug. 20, first budget board committee meeting, committee & board only.
Sep. 10, second budget board committee meeting, committee & board only.
Oct. 1, board budget meeting, open to residents.
Oct. 15, board budget meeting, open to residents.
- 3) **North wall repairs & design**
Two contracts approved, one for temporary repairs mandated by court decree and one for engineering design work and cost estimates.
- 4) **Exterior wall inspection options**
The new city ordinances require a critical inspection (hands-on by a

certified engineer) of each wall every four years and a yearly visual inspection. Due to the cost effectiveness of the current availability of scaffolds, a critical inspection will be made of three sides of the building this year, leaving the north side for next year.



What's happening around the building

by Vito Senese, MECA Association Manager

Exterior/balcony construction work to end by September 30

The residents on the east side of the building are strongly encouraged to contact the management office to schedule an appointment to have their balcony railings painted.

Items not requiring board action

1) Exterior & balcony report

The work should be done by Sep. 15 and the punch list by Sep. 30 and certainly by Oct. 30, even if there are weather delays. This includes the walls/facades painting and membranes. An estimate of \$350 per balcony has been established for those residents choosing to have their membranes painted a single uniform color.

2) Emergency plan

Still waiting for the city to complete the ordinance. We are in compliance with everything at this date.

3) Unit sales

29F	\$190,000
45H	\$257,500
44B	\$255,000

4) Garage report

Claims	
Approved:	2
Denied:	3
Total:	5

Waiting lists

Single self-park:	84
Tandem self-park:	0
Second car:	1

Monthly parkers

Valet:	337
Tandem:	65
Single:	142
Preferred:	1
Engineer:	NC
Motorcycle:	1
Total:	546

New monthlies:	8
Cancellations:	0

The meeting ended at 10:20 pm and went into closed session.

As the summer heat and humidity invade the city, your building staff is working hard to keep our landscaping green and our residents cool. The staff waters the sod and the plants and bushes around the building daily. They are also instrumental in opening the pool on time every day.

The pool is open from 2-10pm Monday thru Friday and from 9am to 10pm on Saturday, Sunday and holidays. The weekday hours may change depending upon the progress of the exterior construction. The office will post any changes on the building bulletin boards and on channel 95. All residents and their guests are asked to obey all the pool rules and comply with the requests of the lifeguards. The board of directors wants everyone using the pool to have a safe and fun summer. Remember that the lifeguards are here to help everyone enjoy the pool.

The residents on the east side of the building are strongly encouraged to contact the management office to schedule an appointment to have their balcony railings painted.

The Annual Owners Meeting will be held Tuesday, Sep. 24. Candidates Night will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 28.

Golf Construction is working on the balconies and fascia on the south side of the building. The L, C and A tiers still have work to be completed. ALL the residents on the south side of the building are NOT allowed out on their balcony for any reason while construction activity is under way. Additionally, those residents shall not put anything out on their balcony until further notice. The painting crews will be working on Saturdays for the next few months.

The staff has recently completed putting up new elevator signs on each floor indicating the elevator number and the floor number. These new signs are part of the new City of Chicago emergency plan ordinance, and additional signage will be installed in the hallways and stairwell in the coming months.

The Annual Owners Meeting will be held Tuesday, Sep. 24. Candidates Night will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 28. There are six board positions up for election. Please contact the management office if you are interested in running for one of the open positions. Applications MUST be filed in the Management Office by 5pm Friday, Aug. 2, 2002.

There are six board positions up for election. Please contact the management office if you are interested in running for one of the open positions. Applications MUST be filed in the Management Office by 5pm Friday, Aug 2, 2002.

Annual meeting

The Malibu East annual meeting of unit owners is scheduled for 7:30pm Sep. 24 in the Windjammer Room. At the annual meeting, an election will be held to elect six unit owners to serve as members of the Condominium Board of Directors for a two-year term. Following the annual meeting, a short board of directors meeting will be held to elect officers for the coming year and to take care of any impending business.

The following directors' terms are expiring: Sandy Chaet, Larry Creter, Marcel Molins, Ila Chaiken, Allan Eckardt and Scott Young. The six individuals elected at the annual meeting will join the following directors who have one year remaining on their terms: Charles Cooper, JoAnne Meshbom, Richard Strauss, Janice Krzesinski, Martina Molins and Thomas Vaughan.

There will be a "Meet the Candidates Night" in the Windjammer Room on Wednesday, Aug. 28 at 7:30pm.

Source: July 1, 2002 letter to unit owners.

2001-02 MECA board attendance

Of the 10 board meetings held from October 2001 through July 2002, the percentage attended by each director is shown below.

This chart is not intended to show the productivity of individual board member, just actual attendance at board meetings.

2001-02 Attendance

Name	Office	Present
Marcel Molins	President	80.0%
Richard Strauss	Vice Pres.	90.0%
Tom Vaughan	2nd V.P.	90.0%
Larry Creter	Secretary	100.0%
Ila Chaiken	Asst. Sec.	50.0%
Jo Anne Meshbom	Treasurer	60.0%
Allan Eckhardt	Asst. Treas.	70.0%
Sandy Chaet	Director	100.0%
Charles Cooper	Director	100.0%
Janice Krzesinski	Director	90.0%
Martina Molins	Director	100.0%
Scott Young	Director	40.0%
Average :		80.8%

Malibu East board clarifies Dialogue content

by Jack Winans, Editor

At the June 25 board meeting, our directors approved guidelines for Dialogue content formulated and submitted by the Dialogue newsletter staff. The guidelines were developed to give editorial direction concerning the suitability of articles submitted for publication in our building newsletter.

MECA Dialogue guidelines

- The Dialogue is to be utilized as a form of communication between the Malibu East Condominium Association (MECA) Board of Directors and the residents and owners of MECA.
- A further purpose of the Dialogue is to publicize the advantages and amenities of Malibu East and its neighborhood in order to enhance the quality of life at Malibu East and the value of Malibu East units.
- The Dialogue is an official publication of MECA and is financed through a MECA budget line item authorized by the Board of Directors.
- The Dialogue is subject to a binding legal review by a member of the MECA Legal Committee prior to publication.
- The Dialogue shall be circulated to all residents of Malibu East Condominium at 6033 North Sheridan Road, and made available to Sudler, our management office staff, the employees of MECA, the employees of the parking garage and the tenants of the Captain's Walk.
- The Dialogue will also be mailed to "out-of-building" owners of units of Malibu East, Dialogue advertisers, people or businesses that are subjects of Dialogue articles, all local political and not-for-profit organizations and, as mailing lists are available, neighboring apartment buildings and condominiums.
- The Dialogue will also be made available to real estate agents, prospective buyers and visitors to Malibu East by having copies avail-

able in the management office, the lobby, the garage waiting area, meeting rooms, and in the public dining or waiting rooms of Captain's Walk tenants.

- Articles submitted to the Dialogue must meet the following criteria:
 1. Be constructive in content.
 2. Communicate information that is not readily available in more wide-reaching publications and which is local in content.
 3. The author or source must be identified and the content verified within reason.
 4. Copyrighted material must have source(s) listed and permission thereof or be within the limitations of "Fair Use."
 5. The Dialogue Committee and/or the editors will determine what material is suitable for the Dialogue.
- The two disclaimers as approved by the Legal Committee on May 22, 2002, will be printed in all issues of the Dialogue

48th Ward report

by Sandy Chaet

Ald. Smith reports Clark Street repairs are ahead of schedule. She showed a new map with changes in the 48th Ward boundaries.

A park for the empty lot at the SW corner of Sheridan and Thorndale should be in place by next summer. The empty lot between El Lago and the Tiara is in litigation. Ald. Smith mentioned Mayor Daley's proposal about more parkland. It is in the talking stage; no plan is being discussed.

Two developers presented plans. The 5812 N. Kenmore proposal is for five townhouses with two parking spaces per unit and an elevator in each unit and laundry facilities. The property will be gated with an alley entrance to parking underneath the building. The 5424-30 N. Sheridan proposal is for 48 condominium units with 70 parking spaces beneath the building. Parking access is through the alley. Guest parking is at the rear of the building. This building will have one-, two-, and three-bedroom units and two elevators.

Determining the 2003 budget

by Jack Winans

All of us have been hit by the recent annual increase in assessments. However, our board of directors is to be commended for their financial acumen in not having a special assessment for years. They have managed to avoid this pitfall that has fallen upon many of our neighbors by maintaining a substantial reserve fund. The Illinois Condominium Property Act, Section 9(c)(2) as reprinted below, is very specific about what future expenses have to be considered when planning a budget and assigning funds to reserves.

To determine the amount of reserves appropriate for an association, the board of managers shall take into consideration the following: (i) the repair and replacement cost, and the estimated useful life, of the property which the association is obligated to maintain, including but not limited to structural and mechanical components, surfaces of the buildings and common elements, and energy systems and equipment; (ii) the current and anticipated return on investment of association funds; (iii) any independent professional reserve study which the association may obtain; (iv) the financial impact on unit owners, and the market value of the condominium units, of any assessment increase needed to fund reserves; and (v) the ability of the association to obtain financing or refinancing.

The reserve fund is a buffer that helps condominiums through hard times and to avoid special assessments. Our condominium is currently going through hard times with the city-mandated expense of our balcony/façade project. Unfortunately more hard times are coming. As is typical with concrete buildings and high-rises subjected to Lake Michigan weather, certain structures of the building need cyclical repairs. We are approaching several of these repairs, the north wall, the garage and the roof.

To safeguard your investment, it behooves all unit owners to attend the next few meetings of the Malibu East

Security seminar

by Ila Chaiken

Approximately 85 Malibu East residents took advantage of the safety seminar held in the Windjammer Room June 26.

The seminar entitled, "Taking Charge of Your Safety" presented these topics:

- Building emergency plan
- Review of safety features for elevators, etc.
- A film on fire and the use of fire extinguishers
- Personal safety awareness
- Taking steps to protect yourself and your property



Vito Senese presented building issues, and Malibu East resident Edward Widmer spoke on personal safety. In addition to the speakers, there was a display of safety products including an Evac-U-Aide kit, smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.

There was excellent feedback from those attending. As chairperson, I wish to personally thank the hardworking committee: Larry Creter, Sandy Chaet, Charles Cooper and a special thank-you to Vito Senese and Edward Widmer.

Don't miss the fire safety program at 7pm Aug. 7 in our Windjammer Room when a representative from the Chicago Fire Department will address fire safety issues.

board of directors. These projects and more will be discussed, and the budget for the coming year will be solidified. Furthermore, six of the directors and the officers who will steer us through this coming critical year will be elected.

Did you know?

by Jack Winans

The Kenmore/Winthrop corridor in Edgewater was built to accommodate the postwar housing need for office workers. Edgewater was ideal with its proximity to Lake Michigan beaches and the L tracks. Many old single-family mansions were subdivided and midsize apartment complexes were built during this era.

This neighborhood has had its economic "ups and downs" during the years. Lately it seems to have stabilized, as many building fronts have been gutted and remodeled throughout and others have been upgraded with gardens, lawns and decorative fencing.

One of the quaint touches that remain from better days are vestiges of the original slate sidewalks. Once a mainstay of staid eastern and southern Atlantic communities, slate sidewalks defined the more refined neighborhoods.

Unfortunately, the slate, like all hard sidewalk surfaces, broke as newly planted trees in the parkway matured and spread their roots. They were replaced first with concrete stained to resemble the slate and eventually with the uniformity of bland concrete.

Recently a 90-foot section on Kenmore was broken up by the traffic of construction equipment paving the new parking lot at Kenmore and Granville and then replaced with concrete.

Fortunately there are there are 208 slabs of slate remaining on Kenmore between Glenlake and Ardmore. There are also five slabs of slate at 6040 N. Sheridan.

The future of slate in Edgewater is threatened as slab-by-slab cracks and citizen complaints doom it to replacement with ugly concrete. Some communities have passed protective legislation designed to decrease damage to slate sidewalks, but neither Chicago nor Edgewater political or historical organizations have attempted to salvage what remains of this vestige of better days.

For those interested, the author can be contacted for the record of the location of every slab of slate in Edgewater.

Community Calendar

by Rose Wandel



LOYOLA PARK

1230 W. Greenleaf
312-742-7857

NORTH LAKESIDE CULTURAL CENTER Senior Citizen Orchestra

To join call Bonnie

Tipton Long
6219 N. Sheridan Rd.
773-743-4477

NORTH PARK VILLAGE NATURE CENTER

North Park Village Community Band

All ages, all instruments.
Rehearsals Mon. 7:30-9:30pm,
concerts four times per year. Call
Maris or Al.
773-471-0117

Concert: 40s Big Band

7-9pm Aug. 23, Free

Dragonfly count

Adults, bring binoculars, register
Aug. 10, 9-11am

Spider walk

Families & children over 6,
register.

Aug. 25, 8pm

Summer Sunday

Families w/children 5 and up. Tour
the nature area, play games,
investigate the pond. Register
Aug. 18, 1-2:30pm

Star watch

Use telescopes
Aug. 14, 18 & 28, 8:30pm
5801 N. Pulaski
312-744-5472

WARREN PARK

North Shore Philatelic Society

Warren Park field house
Every 4th Wed., 7pm
6601 N. Western
743-5015

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

THEATER/SHOWINGS

BLACK ENSEMBLE THEATER

"Chicago's Golden Soul"

Thru Aug. 11
4520 N. Beacon
773-769-4451

LIFELINE THEATRE

"Whose Body?"

Murder mystery about a corpse in
the tub.
Thru Aug. 18, \$20, students/seniors
\$16
Saturdays, 7am-2pm
6912 N. Glenwood
773-761-4477

NEO-FUTURARIUM THEATRE

"Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind"

30 plays in 60 minutes.
\$5 plus roll of a die.
11:30pm Fri./Sat, 7pm Sun.
5153 N. Ashland Ave.
773-275-5255

PINTIG CULTURAL GROUP

Filipino-American Theater Group
Preston Bradley Center
951 W. Lawrence, 5th Fl.
773-293-2787

RAVEN THEATRE

"Marvin's Room"

Rekindling of family relationships.
8pm Thu.-Sat., 3pm Sun., \$20 &
\$24

Previews: 10pm Aug. 9 & 10, 3pm
Aug. 11, 8pm Aug. 13, 14, 15 and
17. Main stage.

6931 N. Clark St.

773-338-2177

COMMUNITY EVENTS/

MEETINGS

Argyle Street Fair

Sat.-Sun., Aug. 17-18 10am-6pm
1100 block of Argyle
773-769-3776

Senn H.S. reunions

1962 Jan./Jun. in October

847-259-1130 or

ReunionsLB@aol.com

1953 Jan./Jun.

847-657-3639

1952 Jan./Jun.

50-year reunion planned for
summer.

847-25901130 or

ReunionsLB@aol.com

MECA EVENTS/MEETINGS

Fire safety seminar

Wednesday, Aug. 7

7:00 pm — Windjammer Room

Dialogue Committee meeting

Tuesday, Aug. 20

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

BERGER PARK

CULTURAL CENTER

Concerts in the park

Bring your own chair

Aug. 14, 7pm

Registration for fall classes

Aug. 17, 9am

6205 N. Sheridan Rd.

312-742-7871

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, Aug. 7, 7pm

(1st Wed. of every month)

Internet basics

Learn mouse skills, www, e-mail

1st Sat. of month

Summer children programs

Call for details

1210 W. Elmdale

312-744-0718

EDGEWATER HISTORICAL

SOCIETY

Fund-raiser

Sep. 5, Food, drinks, silent auction

Charlie's Ale House, Clark St.

Annual fall home tour

Triangle neighborhood, begins at

Edgewater Baptist Church, 1401

W. Hollywood

Sep. 15, noon – 5pm, \$15

773-907-1872

FARMER'S MARKET

Thru Oct. 19, 7am-2pm

Broadway Armory parking lot

Broadway & Thorndale



7:30pm — Community Room

MECA board meeting

Tuesday, Aug. 27

7:30pm — Windjammer Room

Meet the Candidates Night

Wednesday, Aug. 28

7:30pm — Windjammer Room

Annual owners meeting

Tuesday, Sep. 24

7:30pm — Windjammer Room

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

From the archives

— July 22, 1930

Glenlake beach reopened

A near riot of bathers, one of whom got a black eye in a fight, resulted in the removal of the wire fence to stop bathing at Glenlake's street end.

The fence was erected illegally by Park Edgewater Apartments, that is, on city property without a permit. The fight came when a bather parked past the fence, and a building employee hit the bather during an argument.

Police and 49th Ward officials took down the fence the next day.

The manager of the apartment building said that the people who swarm across the lot behind the apartments are annoying and that she would do everything in her power to discourage their approaching the grounds. The fence was put up to prevent people from using the vacant lot next to the building to get to the beach.

The horses used in hauling dirt for the apartments' private beach were often left standing in Glenlake east of Sheridan and prevented bathers from driving down to the street end to park.

The 80-yard stretch of beach was packed with 400 people Saturday, July 18. A lifeguard told our reporter that growing numbers of people were coming to Glenlake because beaches in Edgewater were growing scarce.

Source: Section one, Page 7, July 19, 2002 Lerner Newspaper

Edgewater boasts Chicago's first car-sharing cooperative

by Sharon Karz

America's love affair with the automobile has never been greater. A new service coming to the Edgewater community hopes to encourage neighbors to share that love with each other by establishing a new car-sharing cooperative.

I-GO is a membership-based, pay-per-use transportation service that provides all the freedom and convenience of using a car without most of the costs and many of the hassles. I-GO plans to start service in early March using a secured lot adjacent to the Jewel-Osco Store, 5343 N. Broadway Ave., where its members can pick up and drop off cars.

"We're asking people to choose a smarter way to drive," said Kathy Summers, vice president for marketing with I-GO Cars, a not-for-profit cooperative. "It's like owning a car, only better."

Similar services have operated for years on the west and east coasts, in Canada and in Europe, but this is the first attempt to bring that idea to a large urban area in the Midwest. Mobility Switzerland, launched in 1987, is perhaps the largest car-sharing organization in the world with more than 30,000 members sharing 1,400 cars.

I-GO will start with four 2002 four-door Honda Civics with a target of 240 members by year end. "We chose the Civic because it offers low emissions and gets high gas mileage," said Summers. "Car sharing will deliver service, flexibly and consistently, to achieve its broader goals of reduction in vehicle emissions, parking demand and congestion."

Potential members will be screened and receive a one-hour orientation prior to driving. There is a \$25 non-refundable application fee and, once a member is approved, he'll pay a one-time-only \$100 membership fee. Usage fees are \$4.50 per hour plus 50¢ per mile. Members will receive an itemized monthly bill for usage, which will also include an additional \$20 monthly administra-

tive fee. These costs should, at the end of a given year, be substantially less than owning a car outright in the Chicagoland region.

By paying only for miles and hours driven, using I-GO should provide mobility for its members at a fraction of the cost of actually owning a car. While Edgewater is Chicago's pilot community, Summers says other communities will also be targeted if this test proves positive. "Ald. [Mary Ann] Smith (48th) was incredibly helpful and enthusiastic to get this program started in her ward, and we felt the demographics were right for this type of service," said Summers. Hyde Park is expected to be the second market where this service is to be launched.

Car sharing complements public transportation for the occasional trip for which a rental car or a taxi is not suitable. Car-sharing organizations are generally established in high-density neighborhoods with easy access to public transportation. On average, 15 to 20 members are assigned to a car in close proximity to their homes but have the flexibility to use any car in the fleet.

Neighborhood support is critical to the success of the program. Those seeking more information on this service can call (773) 278-4800, ext. 111, or visit the Web site at www.i-go-cars.org.

Inside Online Publications Feb. 13, 2002

Our condolences

Two residents passed away in July. Both men were original residents of Malibu East and were at the 30-year anniversary party. Edward Duke and Glen Shurtleff will be missed by all who knew them. Our respects to their friends and families. Josephine is grateful to all who have sent her their sympathy.

Berger Park playlot update

by Jack Winans

The Berger Park Advisory Committee met July 23 at the Berger Park fieldhouse to discuss progress of plans for the rehab of the Berger Park playlot. Present were: 49th Ward Ald. Joe Moore and his assistant Alicia Lopez, Chicago Park District Community Outreach Manager Robert Steele, CPD North Lakefront Area Manager Dana L. Zilinski, Berger Park Supervisor Sue Nicotera, and members of the Berger Park Advisory Council, President Lillian LaPalio, Jane Vernon, Eileen Sweeney, Jean Dinwiddie and Goldie Siligman.



Mr. Steele reported that the cost estimates for the rehab would be ready by the end of the next week. A park maintenance supervisor will evaluate the condition of all of the playlot equipment and make recommendations as to repair or replacement. This report was promised in 30 days. Mr. Steele is attempting to have the playlot boundary wall top surface replaced with a non-splintering pressed wood as part of a repair rather than as a replacement to limit costs to BPAC. The two additional loads of chips that are needed to finish the filling of the playlot will be expedited, according to Ms. Zilinski of the CPD. The CPD sign shop will be requested to replace the sign at the entrance of the park to eliminate the word "beach" as this has not been a "park and beach" since the early '90 high-water years. A regulation park sign posting park rules was also requested — needed especially to prompt dog walkers to keep dogs on a leash and remind park patrons that fires are not allowed.

Editorial

by Jack Winans
Dialogue Editor

E-mailed Monday, June 10
To Ernie Constantino
48th Ward Administrative Assistant

Ernie,

I noticed with some consternation that the 6000 N. Sheridan Road apartment building (the 4+1 red-brick across from Malibu) was digging up "their" parkway this morning to replace it with paving blocks. I'm really unhappy about this trend along Sheridan Road. I realize that winter slush and salt destroys much parkway grass each winter that then has to be expensively resodded or reseeded. And also that it has to be watered and mowed each season. However, turning Sheridan Road into a concrete-floored canyon results in more glare, heat and a lowered level of the enjoyment of life along Sheridan Road.

I hope that you and Alderman Smith will come to grips with this easy solution to a maintenance problem that is a shortsighted and ecologically disastrous trend in our neighborhood.

Jack Winans

Response from Ernie Constantino

Jack,

I agree with you and I'll bring this up with the alderman. We are also promoting permeable surfaces and while the brick pavers will have some degree of permeability, the lawn would have soaked up more rainwater and shed less to our overtaxed sewer/stormwater system.

Thanks for the notice,
Ernie

Unfortunately, shortly after this correspondence, another Sheridan Road neighbor replaced more parkway grass with concrete. Perhaps many other buildings will lemming-like follow this trend unless Ald. Smith steps in and stops this abuse of public property. We have so little green and so much concrete. During this last hot spell, I welcomed tiptoeing through the sprinklers and dreaded the bland areas of heat-radiating concrete and brick.

Social Committee update

by Grace Bergbom

Unfortunately, the high temperature and ozone level, plus the chance of rain, prompted the committee to cancel the Moody's supper get-together.

Two other activities are on the agenda — Candidates Night is Wednesday, Aug. 28. It is our opportunity to meet the candidates for the six open positions of the Malibu East board of directors. Each candidate will answer one "chance of the draw" question. Be prepared to submit a question that has meaning to you.

A tailgate party will be held in our Windjammer Room on Sunday, Oct. 27 at noon. The Chicago Bears and the Minnesota Vikings will be playing at their temporary home field Memorial Stadium in Champaign, IL. It should be fun. More information will be made available when details of the outing are all set.



Chicago bike police cite two Sheridan Road sidewalk bikers with \$250 fines at Ardmore and Sheridan. Eight patrolmen, one sergeant and two members of Mayor Daley's Bike Ambassadors along with TV Channel 7 reporters were present June 29 for this crackdown.

I strongly recommend that our readers write, call and e-mail Alderman Smith and protest this abuse and exploitation of public property.

Phone: 773-784-5277

E-dresses: ward48@ci.chi.il.us

alderman48@ameritech.net

Propane grills



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Many of the big fires have come from gas grills because they can have fumes, leaks and explosions," said Barbara Wick, president of Community Association Risk Management and Insurance Consultants in Northfield. "Electric grills are probably the safest."

In Chicago, propane grills are not permitted anywhere within a building occupied by more than 20 people.

"Enforce your rules. If your association has grill restrictions but doesn't make residents adhere to them, your liability increases in the event of a fire or injury," Wick said.

Source: July 12, 2002 Chicago Tribune by Pamela D. McKuen



The excerpt below is from our Malibu East Rules & Regulations.

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'Town Crier' announcements by Betty Mayian

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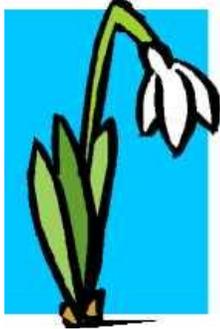
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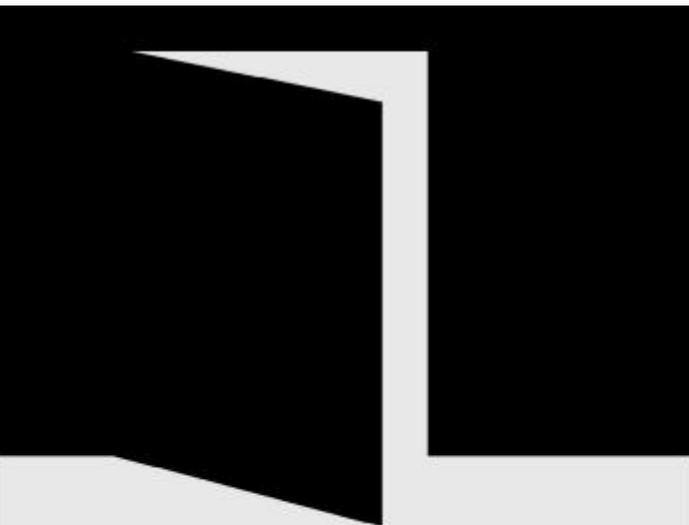
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Articles written by and opinions of the MECA *Dialogue* staff and contributors are their personal views and do not necessarily represent the views of the association or its Board of Directors and management.

Letters to the MECA *Dialogue* Committee are encouraged. Please be as succinct 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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