Malibu East Didlogue

October 2002

Your Communication and Information Resource

Malibu East elects new directors and officers

Annual message to the owners

Marcel Molins Malibu East President

Another year. Where hasit gone? Well, a lot of construction has been going on, and as Vice President Rich-

ard Strauss will report, we are seeing the end of the tunnel. We expect that the balcony façade construction project will be completed very soon. What a relief!

However, the bad news is that work on the building will continue, and as soon as the balcony façade project is completed, we expect to start the replacement of the roof. As you may know, we have been patching and re-patching the roof for several years, and the owners on the 45th floor have borne the brunt of the problems. They have suffered through recurring water leaks after major rainfalls. We are very thankful that they have been so understanding during these trying times. It will be a relief to have a new roof.

The balcony work will now go to the painting stage. Management has come up with a program, which the board has approved, that will allow unit owners to have their balconies painted for a fee. Unfortunately, given the association's financial condition and other necessary projects, we are currently not in a position to otherwise have the balconies painted as a matter of course. You will be provided with the details of the program soon.

Next year we will have to address the repairs of the brick façade on the north side and west side along Sheridan Road.

It appears a complaint from one of our owners caused an inspection of the



north wall by the city, which resulted in a finding that repairs are needed. None of the issues presented involved a safety problem and while we had already been working to get the wall repaired, we are now faced with major expenses to get the work done

in an accelerated time frame. As we all know, whenever the bureaucracy comes to inspect, it gets costly.

Another unhappy resident, annoyed with the construction noise, has made it a habit to call Ald. Smith and the city about her annoyance with the work. While I believe that each of us has a right to complain, I believe it would be better to raise the complaint internally with management or the board and to find out what, if anything, can be done. The net results of going outside with these complaints are problems and expenses for the building, which means additional costs for all of us.

Even then we will not be through with construction. As many of you know, the garage is in need of repairs, and the corridors have to be redone.

Another area on which we have to spend time is security. Given the times we live in, it has become necessary that we all are conscious of the fact that, at least for the time being, life will not be the same. We obviously have the choice to do nothing. However, I believe it is prudent for the board to consider rules, regulations, and measures to increase security, and while these measures may involve some inconveniences to all of us, for the good of the building and all of us, we will have to accept them and abide by them.

This is a very large building and over 1,000 people live in it. It is basically a small town and to function, it needs rules and regulations to which we all

must abide. Strangely there always seem to be people who think that these rules and regulations are for the other people and not for them. The rules that prohibit move-ins and move-outs on weekends or the rules that do not allow balcony coverings come to mind, among others. The board does not like to deal with rules violations. It is an unpleasant task. But if it has to enforce the rules and has to impose sanctions, it will do so. It is preferable, of course, that all of us abide by the rules and avoid the ill feelings and discomfort that such actions cause to ourselves, the community, management and the board.

The committees and the board have been busy doing lots of other things. You will be hearing from the committee chairpersons shortly on all of the other projects. Even though, at this time, I am not going to mention each of them, we all should be thankful for the great work they and their committee members do.

Once the balcony work is completed, we will be able to enjoy again our wonderful and spacious fourth floor deck. We should come up with different (See "Message," page 4)

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MECA annual meeting notes

by Elaine Winans

Special Meeting of Unit Owners

Tuesday, Sep. 24, 2002

Attendance: 10 board members, 2 management representatives, and 68 owners.

Absent: None (2 of this session's 12 board members have moved and resigned.)

- I. Discussion of the sale of unit 15F The negotiated price approved by the board is \$149,500, which is comparable with the prices in the year (2000) that the right of first refusal was exercised for the thenproposed price of \$123,000.
- II. Vote of unit owners of the sale Paper ballots were passed out to all owners present.

III. Vote count

Owner votes (% of all owners) 64.35% in favor, 0.33 opposed. Of those voting, 99.48% were in fa-

Annual Meeting of **Voting Members**

Tuesday, Sep. 24, 2002

Attendance: 10 board members, 2 management representatives, and 68 owners.

Absent: None (2 of this sessions 12 board members have moved and resigned.)

AGENDA

1. Notice of quorum

Registration closed and quorum announced at 8:07pm

2. Welcome - President

In welcoming the owners, President Molins joked that perhaps a rumor of a special assessment was the reason for such a good crowd tonight. He also remarked that recently a local condo had a special assessment and the board was turned out at the next election.

- 3. Election of Board of Directors
 - a) Nominations closed
 - b) Presentation of candidates

- Sandy Chaet
- 2. Ila Chaiken
- 3. Larry Creter
- Marcia Fishman 4.
- 5. Jonathan Heller
- Marcel Molins
- Neil Warner

Marcel acknowledged and thanked all of the board members for doing a good job the last year. The following directors' terms are expiring and they are running for reelection: Sandy Chaet, Larry Creter, Marcel Molins, and Ila

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.

Chaiken. Allan Eckardt and Scott Young are not running for reelection. The six individuals elected at this annual meeting will join the following directors who have one year remaining on their terms: Charles Cooper, JoAnne Meshboum, Richard Strauss, Janice Krzesinski, Martina Molins and Thomas Vaughan.

- **Balloting**
- Balloting closed at 8pm.
- 4. Motion to dispense with reading of minutes of Oct. 16, 2001 and approval of minutes.

Motion passed

5. State of the Association — President Molins

(See page 1.)

6. Treasurer's report

Resolution to transfer excess operating funds to reserve. Motion passed unanimously. (See page 8 for full treasurer's report.)

7. Committee reports

a) Budget, Construction & Special Projects

Richard Strauss

(See page 7.)

b) Garage, Martina Molins

The garage seems to be moving

fairly smoothly. We need more cooperation providing lists of guest for parties. We had some extra revenue from East Point while its garage was being renovated. We have a waiting list of 76 for single self-parking. In August two claims were approved and seven denied.

c) Social, Sandy Chaet The parents group will be planning children's parties. The Harrah's casino outing was a success (see page 9). We will have a tailgate party (see page 11). Thanks go to Rita for her work on all the planters on Sheridan Road. We are working with Ald. Smith to get all of the light posts painted. The police have issued 251 tickets to bicyclists on Sheridan Road sidewalks this summer. ASCO has purchased a bench in honor of Sen. Berman for Lane Park at Thorndale. At the annual ASCO meeting, will be discussing changes in zoning in high rises concerning commercial use. The meting is 7:30pm Oct. 2 at the Malibu.

(Also, see ASCO page 4)

d) Commercial Unit, Janice Krzesinski

(See page 5.)

e) Communications, Tom Vaughan

(See page 6.)

f) Dialogue, Jack Winans (See page 5.)

g), Floor Representatives, Ila Chaiken

(See page 5.)

h) Safety, Ila Chaiken (See page 6.)

i) Aesthetics, Larry Creter (See page 6.)

8. Questions from the floor

1. Please clarify your comments on balcony deck painting.

The membrane is a system of coating done by the contractor. Our own staff can put on a uniform color coat over it for \$360 for those who want it.

- 2. Are outside children allowed for Halloween trick-or-treating? NO
- 3. Are the survey results available? Most of them have already been published in past issues of the Dialogue.

- 4. The surface coat on my balcony wall is flaking. Will be looked at. Cannot tell if it is normal due to weathering without looking.
- 5. I salute the heightened security. What breaches have there been and what can we do? Whenever we see something that is unusual, we should report it. Perhaps the doormen or our hikers are not as vigilant as they should be, but we are continually looking into it and if you see someone whom you don't know, let them use their own black key. Report any loiterers inside and outside. If you are questioned, don't take umbrag;, be glad that our people are checking.
- 6. Will we ever get a lobby camera system where you can see your visitor on channel 95? We are looking at it.
- 7. Has the proposed budget been sent out yet? No. Can the owners override the budget? Only if it is 15% higher than last year's. Then, 20% of owners can call a meeting to overturn it.
- 9. Has the board or the Security Committee taken steps to change the rules about renting? We have talked about it at length. We have not changed the rules but have changed procedures so that we better know the people who are buying or renting.
- 10. The west automatic door does not automatically latch. *Management will look at it.*
- 11. Rain comes in from top balcony because of the angle of the lip of the balcony above. *Will be looked at.*

9. Announcement of election results

- I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	Ciccuon i couit
Marcel Molins	64.20171%
Neil Warner	30.91143%
Larry Creter	30.20976%
Sandy Chaet	29.56541%
Marcia Fishman	25.19718%
Jon Heller	18.90825%
Ila Chaiken	17.55676%
TOTAL:	216.55050%

Note: These are cumulative votes representing percentages of ownership.

Adjournment at 10pm



What's happening around the building

by Vito Senese, MECA Association Manager

As fall approaches, the building staff is getting the building ready for winter. The pools are closed and the building staff is preparing their equipment for the challenges of the upcoming snowfalls.

The exterior balcony/façade project is moving along, and residents can check on the chart in the lobby next to the ramp door for an update on the progress on their tier. The crews are finishing the concrete poring and grinding on the A & C tiers. The south side project is estimated to be completed by mid-November 2002, weather permitting. Residents with any questions regarding the project are encouraged to contact the management office.

The Board of Directors will be issuing a notice regarding the balcony floorcoating project that will be available to all unit owners. The program will require owners to sign up before the end of this year. Full details and costs will be included in the notice.

The Finance Committee has been preparing the 2003 proposed budget. The 2003 budget meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2002 at 7:30pm in the Windjammer Room. All unit owners are encouraged to attend the meeting so they can understand the proposed increase in the 2003 assessments.

The Board of Directors and the pool staff would like to thank all the pool patrons for a safe and fun 2002 pool season. All residents are reminded to comply with the rules and regulations regarding the use of the freight elevator on weekends and holidays. All residents shall schedule use of the freight elevator by contacting the management office. Residents are prohibited from using the freight elevator for deliveries and moves on the weekends and holidays. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Meeting of the Board Of Directors

Tuesday, Sep. 24, 2002

Attendance: 11 board members, 2 management representatives, and 2 owners.

Absent: Charles Cooper

1. Election of officers

President, Marcel Molins Vice President, Richard Strauss Second Vice President, Thomas Vaughan

Secretary, Neil Warner Assistant Secretary, Larry Creter Treasurer, JoAnne Meshboum Assistant Treasurer, Janice

Krzesinski

Directors

Sandy Chaet Charles Cooper Marcia Fishman Jon Heller Martina Molins

2. Board business

a) Instructing the officers to sell unit 15F.

Motion passed

- b) All members of the board asked to sign a statement about conflicts of interest.
- c) Security

Need to address the doormen and the garage personnel on security issues.

d) Insurance law changes Need to make rule changes to make

the association less liable as the new Illinois condominium law allows the association to insist that unit owners carry more insurance.

e) The new directors need to see

e) The new directors need to see the video on sexual harassment.

f) Legal

A new law firm was recommended for our legal collection activity. Motion made and passed.

g) Vito Senese will give the new directors a building tour.

Adjournment at 11pm.

October 2002

Witness statement

The Aug. 26 meeting of The Committee on Buildings by Richard Strauss

Alderman Stone, Committee Members, Commissioner Roberson, ladies and gentlemen.

My name is Richard Strauss. I am representing the Malibu East Condominium Association at 6033 N. Sheridan Road. Our building is 45 stories high, has 499 units, and we pay about \$1 million in annual property tax. I am the vice president of our association, an MIT graduate with bachelor's and master's degrees. They are in chemical engineering, but I have construction experience, including supervising an about-to-conclude six-year, \$5 million renovation of the exterior of our condo building.

First, let me say that the Proposed Substitute Ordinance and Amended Rules in regard to the exterior wall inspection is an improvement, about a 75% improvement over the existing law. As opposed to retaining current rules, we support the proposed substitute.

Second, and unhappily, we remain opposed to even the substitute ordinance and rules. Unhappily, because we know that the intentions of our city government are the best, to protect us, our fellow Chicagoans and visitors to our city. The cost of even the proposed regulation is too high. What do we mean by cost?

There is the dollar cost. We believe projected costs are much higher than your calculations show. Our reputable engineers (who often work for and with the city) believe we will need to pay \$7,000 per façade for ongoing exams, not the \$2,000 for an entire building used in your example. The ongoing for the entire building might then be \$25,000 or more, even with economies of scale. This is just the beginning. We then must do low-density repairs, paying for time and materials, at twice "project rates." We're having a critical inspection on one façade, fixed totally in 1997, and estimate \$50,000 in repairs, not affecting safety, on one narrow end of our building, without repainting.



Why do it if safety is not involved? Engineers, and I don't blame them, will want handson inspections of minor flaws in years to come, or they won't certify us on ongoing inspections. The flaws are hollow-sounding small spots and ex-

posed steel. These offer no hazard "at this time." No matter when fixed and when inspected, these conditions can return the next day.

Finally, there is the human cost to our residents. We have had the building "disturbed," with noise, lack of privacy, need to keep air conditioners off, inability to use our balconies and our recreation deck, dust and poor aesthetics, for six years. Shall we suffer this on a nearly continuous basis?

Then, there is the cost to all professionals, e.g., the City Building Department, who must receive all of these reports. They are so jammed one cannot get building permits in a timely fashion. Our architects and engineers, who will at least make money, are stretched too thin and will inevitably end up in court, being sued, when some inspected something still fails. Our building managers and board volunteers, in condos at least, will be spending their time inspecting, instead of finding ways to upgrade their building.

Well, at least this will prevent injuries and deaths, right? In my humble opinion — no. We are already at minimum levels, especially with well-run buildings. How many deaths have we have seen in the last 16 years along the north lakefront? Just having scaffolding can lead to deaths. You can't inspect quality into a building. There will be injuries to workers doing inspections and repairs under less-than-best conditions. And when we are all done, ice will still fall, windows will still pop under high wind loads, pieces of façade will still occasionally fall, and buildings under construction will still collapse. There will be casualties, no matter what you do.

So, should we just give up? I believe the inspections ordinance should be scrapped, because it will make things worse, not better. Instead, let the Building Department analyze permits and building owners' attitudes. Go after the bad owners to fix their properties. Let the good owners make repairs as needed, with the guidance and supervision of the city Building Department. That is, go back to the old system for good owners. How many people were hurt or killed as a result of items missed by diligent management? Not many, and zero is impossible. Spend governments' time and effort on the scofflaws. You already know who they are. Concentrating on them will provide the most extra safety for your time and our tax dollars.

"Message" continued from page 1 names for the different sections of that large space. In any case, I hope that we will be able to use it and undertake activities in that area.

This building has a great amount of facilities and amenities that are underused, with the exception of the exercise room. How many buildings do you know that have an exercise room, swimming pools, a tennis court, a walking path, a billiard room, a ping-pong room, a racquetball court and a children's room. Have I forgotten something? Oh yes, the Community Room, saunas and the Commercial Unit, Captain's Walk. We also have many people who like to go running up and down the lakeshore.

We should be able to organize events and activities in these facilities and bring together people with the same hobbies. This will bring the residents to know each other and also build a greater community sense. We intend to establish a Sports and Entertainment Committee, which will work toward this objective.

Hopefully, some of you will volunteer for this committee. Please talk to me or give management or me a note, with your name and telephone number, if you are willing to be part of this committee.

I would like to thank you all for your support to the board and management and urge you to run for the board and join the committees to make this building and life here even better. I continue to believe that we have a great building, but with all your help, it can be even better!

Commercial Unit

Captain's Walk Shopping Mall

Janice Krzesinski

During 2002, 10 of 12 available spaces remain rented to: Dr. Ahmad Bastani, Fortune Lin Sushi Corner, Jack Horbal DDS, Alan Jacobs,



JDT Medical Billing, Live Life Fit!, Malibu Cleaners & Tailors, Malibu Convenient Mart, Sheridan Hair & Beauty Studio and H. M. Wagner Realty Services. Signage was added at the Sheridan Road entrance and a new flyer was distributed to 10 surrounding residential buildings in the effort to attract pedestrian traffic and to generally increase local public awareness that businesses in the Captain's Walk are open to walk-in customers.

Plans are under way to utilize one of the vacant spaces by constructing storage lockers and making them available to rent by Malibu East residents. In addition, a new commercial space will be created via reconfiguration of the existing Malibu Convenient Mart space. Both projects should be completed near year's end.

Also this year, the vacant space previously occupied by MB Financial Bank has been rented for one-time events and meetings.

Floor Representatives

Ila Chaiken, Chairman

The committee had been meeting every

other month. It became apparent there was not a need to meet this often, and the decision was made to meet quarterly. There have been problems recruiting enough members to make this



committee viable. A discussion among the members thought that perhaps there was not a need for this committee at all as there were other areas open to discussion of building issues. It was at the last meeting the committee voted to go to a quarterly schedule. The next meeting is re-scheduled for October 8, 7:30pm in the Community Room. The agenda will be a discussion to continue the committee or not.

Dialogue

Jack Winans, Editor

I am pleased to report to the owners of Malibu East of our continued success of the Dialogue newsletter.

First, the Dialogue has been distributed by the first of the month, every month for the past five years. This track record of dependability has enabled us to continuously attract and retain new advertising. If you have any contacts for advertising in the Dialogue, please stop by the management office and pick up a current copy of the Dialogue and a business card with rates and contact information.

Second, this year, for the first time, we have the opportunity of actually making a small profit over all expenses. We estimate covering printing expenses by about \$800 and with continued success of our aggressive pursuit of advertising revenue, may make a modest profit for the year 2002, covering even extra expenses such as office supplies and postage. A second, and perhaps more important, reason for our financial success is the dedicated efforts of the Dialogue staff which meets a second time each month to count, sort and physically collate — that is to insert the pages together along with any advertising inserts. This job, if done by our printer, would add approximately \$350 per month or \$4,200 to our annual expenses. I realize that these numbers are miniscule compared to the expenses that we have incurred with the balcony façade project, but the Dialogue staff understands the necessity of controlling all costs, no matter how small, in these trying times.

Third, at my suggestion, the Dialogue was incorporated into a new Communications Committee co-chaired by Thomas Vaughan and Janice Krzesinski. The committee's responsibilities includes our new official Website, www.

MalibuEast.org with Larry Rosen as Webmaster. This sharing of leadership and an immediate path of communication has given us the opportunity of placing time-sensitive stories on our Website.

Fourth, the Dialogue gives the file of each monthly issue to Larry who has compiled a two-year archive of the Dialogue that is available in PDF format in color on our Website. In fact, it is often at the Website a day or two before distribution of the printed version. Larry has also prepared CD ROM disks and Zip disks with back issues of the Dialogue and indexes that simplify searching for stories and articles in back issues.

Fifth, our newsletter attracted the attention of the editor of Common Interest, the magazine for the Illinois chapter of the Condominium Association Institute. They requested that our staff prepare an article showing how other condominiums could put out their own newsletters. Our outline of a proposed article was accepted and the final manuscript written by Neil Warner and myself has been printed in their summer issue.

Sixth, our newsletter staff has gained experience, and I believe that their articles show a high degree of professionalism. Assistant Editor Neil Warner continues to proofread the Dialogue, and his standard of excellence is certainly comparable to and probably exceeds that of most professional publications.

Seventh, the Dialogue staff is continuing its efforts to assemble the accumulated details concerning life in our condominium and neighborhood into pamphlets for the use of real estate agents and for the information of new residents

We meet at 7:30pm the third Tuesday of the month. As with the board meetings, we start with an open session where all residents are welcome to comment or ask questions. Volunteers are constantly needed for reporting and distribution. We hope to see more of you at our meetings.

Safety

Ila Chaiken, Chairman

The first meeting of this committee was held in December. Security issues were discussed and prioritized for evaluation and discussion. At the second



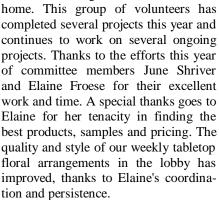
meeting it was decided in addition to the exploration of security devices for the building, security information needed to be compiled and made available to the owners. The committee began working on the acquisition of helpful information, which later was distributed to all units in a red security folder. We then planned an evening of important security information entitled "Taking Charge of Your Safety." This program was very successful, with approximately 100 owners in attendance. It was followed up with a program on fire safety the following month.

Our plan for the committee is to continue exploring safety devices and present our recommendation to the board. With the election there will be new board members and we will revise the committee.

Architecture & Aesthetics

Larry Creter, Chairman

The Aesthetics Committee is involved in the visual well-being of our



Before the holidays of last fall, the

committee completed the redecorating of our lobby, including the installation of an oriental rug, four new chairs and a tabletop. A consistent paint color was formulated and used in all common areas as an accent, and the mailroom carpeting was coordinated with the new look.

The board has approved a plan for refurbishing the garage waiting room. This high-traffic, highly visible area will be coordinated with the lobby in a cost-efficient way. The deep red and blue colors from the main lobby will be used in the room as accent colors on the walls. New seating and artwork for the walls are being ordered; and a large artificial tree and pot will soften the look. The hiker's seating and countertop area will be refurbished. The metal window and door framing will also be refinished. The committee plans to have the work completed before the holiday season.

The laundry room was given a new look along with new machines, new carpeting, wall color, paper accent, shelving and posters, and we continued the color theme from the lobby.

The committee continues to work on a master plan for the entire building. The major focus of this plan will be the redecoration of the corridors, set to begin in stages in the future when the budgeted funds become available. The plan intends to include new carpeting, wall color treatment, lighting, door refinishing, hardware and signage.

After 9/11, the city passed ordinances requiring safety signage in high-rise buildings. The signs include elevator cab identification, floor plan signs, and exit and stairwell signs. The committee had planned to coordinate new signage with a new hallway design, but the city required immediate installation of the signage. The signage style was then selected to complement the wood doors and brass-colored hardware and will fit into a future design scheme. Some signs are in place now, and all signage will be installed soon, including the replacement of existing directional signs.

The Landscape Committee will be planning for the nearly full use of our fourth floor deck as the exterior construction project finishes. The committee hopes to rearrange the large planters and have them filled with large specimens of plants, possibly trees and shrubs. Thanks to committee member Larry Shute for his expertise and efforts this past spring in our planning and planting efforts.

As the holidays approach, the committee is looking for volunteers to help plan for the holiday decorations. If you wish to help or have suggestions, please leave your information with the management office.

Communications

Thomas Vaughan Co-Chairman

This committee had a very active year with wonderful help from many MECA residents.



Channel 95: Hopefully, every resident knows that Channel 95 is the in-house communication channel on our cable TV system. Many know about the historically slow crawl of information that appeared about the building on this station 24/7. Committee co-chair Janice Krzesinski took ownership of this issue, studied the documentation for our character generator that drives this information, and decided to give back several minutes of time for everybody who tunes in. With the help of MECA's administrative assistant. Joan Burke, we now have a fast-moving billboard of interesting MECA information. If you haven't surfed past channel 95 recently, give it another try.

MECA's Internet Website: With the development of residents Randy Gray and Larry Rosen and with modest help from the board and Communications Committee, MECA now maintains an official Website, www.MalibuEast.org, which contains many interesting features. There is a calendar of building events, news of meetings and building social events, telephone numbers for

services of interest to residents, garage rates and information, links and telephone numbers for city and neighborhood services and government entities, and official copies of our rules and condominium declaration and other governing laws. Currently, the past twoyears' Dialogue editions are on-line, with plans for the addition of earlier copies. While it is a very useful tool now, it is a work in progress, and other ideas would be welcome if left in our office or e-mailed addressed to the Website. We all owe thanks to Randy and Larry for their donated time and efforts and to Jack Winans for his hard work digitizing our declaration and condo laws.

The Dialogue: In my opinion, MECA enjoys the best condo publication in the city and perhaps the country, thanks to the efforts of the Dialogue Committee headed by editor Jack Winans, and assistant editor Neil Warner. Through their efforts, advertising revenue has been sufficient to allow the publication to operate currently at breakeven or with a profit. We all owe the Dialogue staff a vote of thanks. Jack Winans, Editor, will now deliver the full Malibu East Dialogue report.

ASCO news

Sandy Chaet

During the year, many things have been reported to you. There will be new housing at Bryn Mawr/Sheridan and 5400 N. Sheridan. The Kingsley Place has been temporarily postponed due to funding. The park at Thorndale/Sheridan should be started next year. There also is a park planned for the empty lot at 6151 N. Sheridan. The Granville Task Force has done a study focusing on opportunities for future retail and residential development between the lakefront and Broadway. Discussions have been about how to improve Granville.

The bike patrol has been successful. The majority of the bikers have used the official bike route. The bike ordinance was for one year only, so we need to write letters of support. Address

letters to:

Chicago Police Department 3510 S. Michigan Chicago, IL 60653-1020 *And* Ald. Mary Ann Smith 5533 N. Broadway Ave. Chicago, IL 60640-1405

Budget, Construction & Special Projects

Richard Strauss, Chairman

Reported by Jack Winans

We anticipate a 6% increase in owner assessments in next year's budget. We hope this will be the end of in-



creases in assessments above the cost of living. In addition, valet and tandem self-park rates will be increased per month by \$4 and single self-park by \$6. The MECA survey indicated that a significant number of people are concerned with the cost of living at MECA. The last nine years' assessment increases were 0, 4, 5, 5, 3, 3, 4, 9 and 6%. This is the same as a 4.3% increase annually. Many buildings have had to have special assessments or much higher raises in assessments. We have managed with 1.5 % over the cost of living increases. We have a building worth about \$100 million. Our operating budget is around 2% of that and our reserve expenditures are about 1%. This is really a very reasonable budget. With all of the employees who work for us, and the amenities that we have, this is a very reasonable cost for living in this wonderful building. We have a firstclass place that we can all be proud of.

We have had a tremendous drain due to the balcony project. We are very near the end of the balcony/façade project after six years of hard work. We are contemplating that the work will be done by the end of October. One fly in the ointment may be a color change by the manufacturer of the membrane covering.

We have major future expenditures

ahead of us. We will be replacing the roof at a cost in excess of \$300,000. Approximately \$500,000 will be needed for the north side brick wall restoration. We are looking to save money by examining three different ways of doing the work. 1) Replace the bricks and the wall as it is currently built. 2) Replace the bricks in pre-fabricated concrete sections. 3) Use plastic faux brick panels.

We have done considerable work in the Captain's Walk mall. We are building locker rooms for additional storage. Other work needs to be done in the corridors and the lobby. Things never stop in a building this size. We need to spend the 1% of our building value per year just to keep up.

Another major source of expense is the city's insistence on the inspection routine. Previously, by city ordinance, we need to have engineers do a hands-on inspection of every square foot of our wall surfaces every four years and have a visual inspection once a year. Partly due to our efforts in contacting Mayor Daley and the city building department, the four years have been changed to eight, and the every year to every other year; and also, change from all of the building to half the building.

Director Strauss was a witness at a hearing of the Chicago Committee on Buildings, and he read his witness statement at this time. (See page 4.) His statement was greeted with tremendous applause.

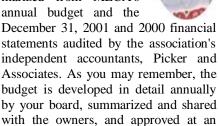
Balcony deck painting will be made available to those owners who request this service. A topcoat would be applied that will render your patchwork-colored deck a single uniform color. The cost to the owners will be \$360 per balcony (A & B units have two balconies, \$360 each). This work will be done in-house and is one-third of the cost that owners would have to pay if the work was done by an outside concern. The work will probably be done next year. (See last month's Dialogue or the management office for details.)

Treasurer

JoAnne Meshboum

I would like to share with you tonight the following information that is summarized from MECA's annual budget and the

open board meeting each fall.



The association ended the year with a \$252,882 operating surplus. Total building revenues from the normal operation of the building were \$3,012,009, compared to \$2,934,107 in 2000. This 2.7% increase in income was primarily due to the 4.0% increase in owner assessments. Total operating revenues exceeded the budgeted amounts by just \$5,000.

Total operating expenses for the building were \$2,285,669, compared to \$2,122,843 in 2000. This 7.7% increase spread across virtually all expense categories. Total expenses, including the planned transfer to the reserve fund, were less than budgeted by about \$242,789, or a 9.8% savings. The resulting net operating surplus of \$252,882 was transferred to the reserve fund.

The reserve fund balance at the beginning of 2001 was \$2,644,983. During 2001, \$979,231 was added to the reserve fund, consisting of scheduled transfers, interest income on investments, and the year-end operating surplus. After reserve fund expenditures of \$1,684,631, the reserve fund balance at year-end 2001 decreased by \$705,400 to \$1,939,583 because of 2001's large capital expenditures. Please note our reserve balance includes \$423,000 invested in units purchased in 2000.

In January 2000 your association purchased the Captain's Walk commercial unit for \$300,000 and a residential unit.

The Captain's Walk rental income increased in 2001 by nearly 6.8% to \$150,000.

Cash expenditures decreased by approximately \$42,800, or 23.7%, to \$137,831. This resulted in a positive cash flow of \$12,244 versus a negative year 2000 cash flow of \$40,066. However, the cash flow analysis does not include capital expenditures or allocations of building personnel, supplies, insurance and other related costs. If these were included, the net result would have been a loss.

The board conducted a survey to see if there was demand for additional locker spaces. These would be for rent and located in the Captain's Walk. Because of the high level of interest, the board has approved this project, which will begin within the next few months. We hope this will help increase Captain's Walk revenue and move us toward breakeven.

The 2000 purchase of the residential unit was made to sustain the price values of our individual units. Unhappily, it resulted in a lawsuit from the potential purchaser. This lawsuit and the sale of the unit have been resolved in 2002.

Our building is now in the final phase of our ongoing exterior wall and balcony repair projects. This has caused a significant drain on our resources. Further important projects are necessary to maintain your property. Richard Strauss will discuss these projects and the complete budget for year 2003 in more detail.

At year-end 2001, MECA was in a strong financial position with the above-mentioned \$1,939,583 in reserve funds, held mostly in insured accounts. This amount is held to cover both scheduled and unanticipated capital expenditures for the continued maintenance of our building. Recent boards have taken a fiscally sound position to avoid the need for special assessments. These actions have helped to maintain MECA as the premier Sheridan Road property.



Four-day-old resident attends Annual Owners Meeting Proud parents Nicole and Jon Heller, and Harrison (Harry) Thaddeus Heller, born Sep 20.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Residents are prohibited from using the freight elevator for deliveries and moves on the weekends and holidays.

NO EXCEPTIONS!

Notice to snowbirds



If you are going to be out of town for the winter season, keep up with MECA events by having the Dialogue mailed to your winter home. Leave your name, unit number, winter address and MECA phone number at the doorman's station or at the management office in an envelope addressed to the Dialogue editor. Also include the dates of your departure and return.

Sheridan Road bike update

by Jack Winans

Sgt. Sachs and his bike patrol have altered their schedule much to the dismay of numerous bikers who thought they could ride on Sheridan Road sidewalks at different times with impunity. After a summer of monitoring bike activity mainly on Saturday and Sunday afternoons at Ardmore, Sgt. Sachs initiated a rotating schedule that included weekdays and mornings and evenings.

Loyola authorities were notified of the new bike ordinance that carries a \$250 fine and disabling of bicycles ridden by bikers 18 and older on Sheridan Road from Devon to Hollywood. However, they evidently have not posted warnings, as Sgt. Sachs suggested, and many Loyola students who had just returned from summer vacation were caught in the web. The students were insistent

that none of the campus buildings or any of the many notice board sites had warnings posted. Students from Northwestern were also ensnared.

This reporter has seen many instances of adults fleeing from the officers after being told they were being stopped and would be fined. In most cases, the officers apprehended the violators with tactics using both bikes and patrol cars. It is foolish to flee during an arrest as you most certainly will end up in handcuffs and taken to the station for booking.

The enforcement of Ald. Smith's ordinance has finally resulted in a major reduction of bike traffic on Sheridan Road sidewalks. Perhaps our alderman can now shift her attention to the automobile traffic flying down Sheridan Road at 50 mph. Some drivers just can't make the adjustment from Lake Shore Drive to our congested front door street!

treated with a trip to the pokey!

"License and registration, please!" Those who stopped on command were treated with respect. Those who ran were

Editorial

Jack Winans, Editor

Date: Sep. 4
Temp: 75 F
Forecast: High 80 F
Time: 10am
Beach: CLOSED

Sign:

Beaches open only
when Lifeguards on duty
Violators will be prosecuted
CALL 911
to report unauthorized entry
Chicago Park District

Two days after Labor Day — that's all it took for the Park District to close down Osterman Beach at Sheridan and Hollywood, which serves a north side area that has the highest population density in Chicago.

The nice new, plastic temporary sidewalk for the handicapped: GONE. The bathrooms: CLOSED and padlocked. I'm surprised that the snow fences aren't up already.

For years, the Park District has used Labor Day as the arbitrary end of summer and good beach weather. I see their dictatorial decision as the end of good sense and a lapse of their duty of service to the public.

Their excuse has always been that a sufficient number of lifeguards are not available after Labor Day. So why not change the sign to "Swim at your own risk; lifeguards not on duty," as people will do anyway.

The excuse for closing the bathrooms is that they can't get a service company to care for them after Labor Day. Bikers, runners and picnickers will still be using the beach parks — they need the bathrooms. So put in a few portapotties, those companies would be glad to service them as their business does slow down after Labor Day.

If the CPD had the priority of providing services and facilities with the same speed at which they close them down after Labor Day, they might start to understand that they are there to serve the public, not make frivolous decisions that serve their own distorted needs.

Community Calendar

by Rose Wandel

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

BERGER PARK CULTURAL CENTER

Adult Computer Class

Sign the waiting list at Berger Park or call 761-5792 for information on Wednesday evening computer classes. \$45 for five weekly one-hour classes.

Computer Club

For boys & girls 9-13 years old Saturdays, 10:30am to noon FREE Register now for fall session Call 773-761-5792 for information on the club, free community access to computers, the Internet and computer training, videos, CDs.

Flu shots

supplies run out. We will bill Medicare for Part B participants; otherwise the cost for non-Medicare is \$15 per person. 6205 N. Sheridan Rd.

Oct. 15, 10am-1pm or earlier if

312-742-7871

EDGEWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Grand opening of museum

Sunday, Oct. 5

Ribbon cutting 1:15pm

Tours, refreshments.

5358 N. Ashland Ave.

Benefit for museum

Charlie's Ale House

5308 N. Clark

Buffet dinner, drinks, cash bar (all proceeds to museum).

\$30 at door, \$25 with reservation. Send check to EHS c/o Terry

Clerkin, 5231 N. Lakewood, 60640.

Watch for date in October 773-907-1872

EDGEWATER PUBLIC LIBRARY

CAPS 24th Dist. Beat #33SD Come meet our beat police. Wednesday, Oct. 2, 7pm (1st Wed. of every month)



Internet basics

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

FARMER'S MARKET

Saturday, Oct. 19 – last

day

Broadway Armory parking lot Broadway & Thorndale

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY

"Ole! Special Hispanic Music & Masterpieces"

Featuring Loyola students offering Latin American & Spanish music. FREE

Oct. 10, 2-4pm

Martin D'arcy Museum of Art 6225 N. Sheridan Rd.

773-508-2679

NORTH PARK VILLAGE

NATURE CENTER

Trails of Terror

Halloween trails 6:30-9:30pm, Oct 18-20 & 24-26. 5801 N. Pulaski 312-744-5472

SACRED HEART SCHOOL

Annual antique show

Oct. 24-26

Call for times and entry fee. 6224 N. Sheridan Rd.

773-262-4446

SWEDISH AMERICAN

MUSEUM CENTER "They Yearned for America"

Exhibit of nine tapestries by textile artist Asa Bengtsson

Thru Nov. 30, \$4, \$3 children/seniors

10am-4pm Tue.-Fri., 11am-4pm Sat./Sun.

5211 N. Clark St. 773-728-8111

WARREN PARK

North Shore Philatelic Society

7pm 4th Wed. of the month.

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

CITY LIT THEATRE COMPANY

"She Stoops to Conquer"

Thru Oct. 27, \$18-\$24

8pm Thu.-Sat., 3pm Sun.

1020 W. Bryn Mawr

773-293-3682

NEO-FUTURARIUM THEATRE

"Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind"

30 plays in 60 minutes, \$5 plus role of die.

Fri./Sat. 630pm & 11:30pm, 7pm

5153 N. Ashland Ave.

773-275-5255

PEGASUS PLAYERS

"The Fantasticks"

Musical — thru Oct. 20, \$23-\$25.

8pm Thu.-Sat, 3pm Sun.

O'Rourke Theatre

1145 W. Wilson

773-878-9761

RED HEN PRODUCTIONS

"Bloody Bess: A Tale of Piracy and Revenge"

Thru Oct. 20, \$25

"Dracula: The Puppet Play"

Based on Bram Stoker's book. Not suitable for young children.

Oct. 25-Jan. 5

Call 773-738-0589 for time/price.

"Mars Attacks Chicago"

Radio-style play based on old broadcast.

\$12, 4pm Oct. 5

5123 N. Clark St.

312-409-8123

RAVEN THEATRE

"Marvin's Room"

Comedy about rekindling family.

Thru Oct. 13, \$20-\$24

8pm Thu.-Sat., 3pm Sun.

"Talkin' Baseball"

Thru Oct. 20 — humorous

8:30pm Fri./Sat., 7:30pm sun., \$12 6157 N. Clark St.

773-338-2177

COMMUNITY EVENTS/

MEETINGS

Candidate forum

Hear and meet Illinois 14th District Representative candidates,

Democrat Harry Osterman, Green

Party's Jason Farbman, Republican Fannie Kazi-Taylor.

7-8pm Oct. 7 Loyola Park Field House 1230 W. Greenleaf Call Rogers Park Community Council for info. 773-338-RPCC (7722)

Far Northside Women's Networking

Lunch available \$10 Meet on 3rd Thu. of the Month Devon Bank 6445 N. Western. 773-743-6022

Rotary Club Of Chicago-Rogers Park

Meets every Tues. 6-7:15pm Free parking Devon Bank (lower level) 6445 N. Western. Ouestions: 847-679-3830

Kiwanis Club of North Shore

Meets at 12:15pm every Tue. at Calo's Restaurant

5343 N. Clark St.

Jim Kaulas, 773-761-3668

S.E. Asia Center

Building Bridges Pre-School for children 3-5, full day – 7:30am-5:30pm.

5120 N. Broadway Site visits encouraged 773-989-7766.

Tot Lot-Loyola Park Field House

Infants to five-year olds 9:30am-noon Thru May 2003 1230 W. Greenleaf 312-742-7857

MECA EVENTS/MEETINGS

Budget meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 1

7:30pm — Windjammer Room

Floor Representatives meeting

Tuesday, Oct 8

7:30pm — Community Room

Dialogue Committee meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 15

7:30pm — Community Room

Thursday afternoon discussion group

Thursday, Oct. 17 (3rd Thurs. of month)

2:00pm — Community Room

MECA board meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 22

7:30pm — Windjammer Room

Tailgate party

Sunday, Oct. 27

Noon — Windjammer Room

Tailgate party



by Sandy Chaet

The Social Committee is planning to have a tailgate party on Sunday, Oct. 27 at noon in the Windjammer Room. The Chicago Bears will be playing the Minnesota Vikings. We will have several televisions set up to view the game. Refreshments will be provided and there will be no charge. There will be a flyer giving more details about the gettogether. Come and enjoy watching the game with your neighbors. Even if you are not a football fan, come and socialize!

RSVP by Oct. 18 to the doorman

Ald. Smith to announce debate

by Norm Cratty

Ald. Mary Ann Smith will be announcing in October community meetings/debates for the



proposed island development on Lake Michigan shores between Hollywood and Howard. This design project is tied to the proposed Life Sciences Building at Loyola's campus.

Museum grand opening

The Edgewater Historical Society Museum will be having its grand opening Sunday, Oct. 6 from 1-4pm. Admission is free. The museum is located at 5358 N. Ashland.

The ribbon cutting will be at 1:15. Guided tours will be available. There will be refreshments and entertainment. We will be provided with a 1956 pumper fire engine for the event.

Kathryn Gemperle, president of EHS, said: "We believe this museum will provide a space to learn about community history and develop a sense of place within Chicago." For more information, call 773/907-1872.

Source: EHS press release



Secret Garden indoor and outdoor seating has views of Lake Michigan

Secret Garden Café closed for winter

The Secret Garden Café, located in Berger Park on the lakefront, closed for the 2002 season at the end of September. Lisa Jordan, proprietor, wishes to thank her friends, co-workers and patrons who have all helped to make this year a success. Contributing to this season's success was the recent winterizing of a section of the patio overlooking Lake Michigan. Lisa extends an invitation to all of her friends to join her for the May 2003 season reopening.

Press release by Secret Garden Café

Discussion group

Ilse Sigler Ruth Betty Spilky

The lazy, hazy days of summer are over, and once again we are resuming the discussion group.

We usually meet on the third Thursday of the month from 2-3:30pm in the Community Room on the fourth floor. We discuss matters of interest to the group on any subject that is brought up. We socialize, enjoy coffee and cookies and form friendships. Everyone is welcome, so join us for an afternoon of fun and good fellowship. Bring your ideas, but most of all, bring yourself.

Dates:

Oct. 17

Nov. 14 (2nd Thursday)

Dec. 19 Jan. 16



Bosanski Okusi Taste of Bosnia

By Richard Clough

Nestled across the street from Dominick's on Broadway lies another neighborhood jewel, Bosanski Okusi. With so many refugees from the Balkans in the neighborhood, it was only a matter of time before an entrepreneur would provide the tastes of home for recent arrivals and those of us who have been here some time.

The geographic position of Bosnia is definitely reflected in the cuisine. You'll find lots of kebabs, a relative of gyros, and lots of veal, with sides of raw onion and tomato slices. The entrees are all served up with a close cousin of pita bread. But it's pita with a difference, being about an inch high and as big as a dinner plate. Try as we might, the only name we could elicit from the staff was "Bosnian bread." For a variety, try one of the combinations. For the less adventurous, try the Bosnian hamburger.

The interior is a bit Spartan, but the portions are large and you won't leave hungry, if you can finish at all. The only portion size they seem to know is "fill the plate" and this applies to the salads and appetizers as well. The staff won't rush you out, so be sure to let them know when you are ready for the bill. The staff is friendly, but a bit short on English language skills, so be clear when you order, and order by the numbers. You won't need a reservation, and you can order for pickup.

Appetizers, soup of the day and salads range from \$3 to \$5, entrees from \$4.75 to \$13. Coffee, tea, juices, soft drinks,



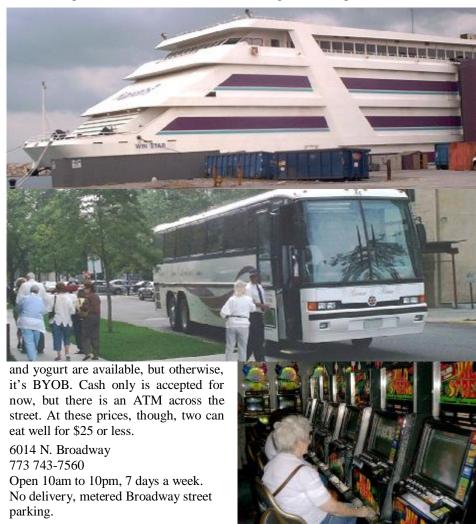
Harrah's casino outing



Thursday, Sep. 19, a busload of 32 optimistic residents of Malibu East and neighboring condos took a Social Committee-sponsored outing to Harrah's casino in East Chicago, Ind. The \$10 price included two sessions of gambling, buffet lunch and transportation on

a luxury motor coach. The lunch alone was more than worth the trip. No one claimed to have won or lost a fortune, but all said they had a great time and were looking forward to the next trip.

A couple of us spent part of the time touring the ship. On the top deck, by the bridge, we were surprised to find out that the ship was real, had engines, and could set out on a real journey. Our thanks to Aida for volunteering to put this trip together and then gathering us up in time for the luncheon and, most importantly, for the bus trip home. No one was left in East Chicago on this trip.



Dear Etta Kitt,

We have a pair of lovely finches with little red caps that visit our balcony, and I would so like



to feed them. Unfortunately, I've learned from past bad experiences that any bird food of any kind or any bird water dishes put out on the balcony are found by pigeons in just a few days. The pigeons have a good memory and long after the food is gone, the pigeons return time after time, leaving their white, goopy signature behind with every visit. I certainly don't want this mess on my new balcony membrane and nicely painted black railings, so I'll never make the mistake of trying to feed the "good" birds again.

The trouble is that my well-meaning, but shortsighted, bird-brained neighbor is feeding the pigeons. Her balcony is just covered with bird droppings, and all of her neighbors, including me, are the regrettable recipients of her largesse. What would you suggest?

Signed Trouble from the sky



Dear Troubled,

The board has gone to great expense to repair our balconies, and many owners will go to additional expense next year to have their membranes painted a single color. It is unfortunate that a few individuals defy the rule against feeding pigeons and therefore cause damage to all of us. This is not just a rule infraction; it is an act that diminishes the value of everyone's units. If a personal visit to your neighbor does not result in the immediate cessation of this activity, it is certainly your fiduciary obligation to make a formal report to the management office and to the board of directors.

'Town Crier' announcements by Betty Mayian

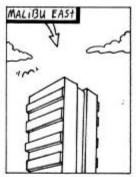
We welcome all new residents to our building, including:

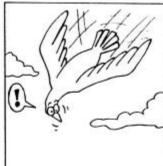


If you have information concerning talented or famous MECA residents, please contact the Dialogue.

Balcony Man by Scott Virzi



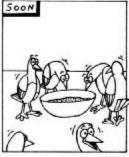


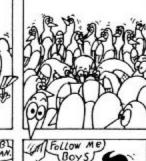












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Friday 9:00-7:00

Saturday 8:00-5:00 TELEPHONE: (773) 561-6595 Sunday by appointment only (773) 561-6596

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6033 N. Sheridan in the Captain's Walk

Stop in for coffee – and.

Fresh pastries delivered daily



Mon/Fri 8 am to 9 pm Saturday 8:30 am to 8 pm Sunday 9 am to 5 pm

For Delivery Call: 773-769-5440



The Secret Garden Café

We are closed for the winter and would like to thank you for your patronage. Reopening May 2003 with weatherized lakefront seating. Hope to see you then!

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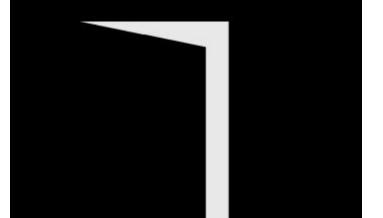
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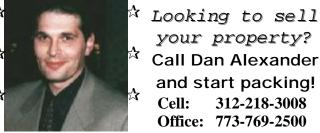


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The Dialogue

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

Articles written by and opinions of the MECA Displayer 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 Disclosur Committee are encouraged. Please be as succinct as possible. The MECA Disclosur 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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The Dialogue neither endorses nor promotes in whole or part any advertising printed in the Dialogue newsletter or included as a separate insert. The content of such advertising is the sole responsibility of the advertiser and is paid for by the advertiser. Advertising fees are used to defray the publication cost of the Dialogue.

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