

Malibu East Dialogue

February 2003

Your Communication and Information Resource

Sewer project to drain Sheridan Road traffic

Sheridan Road to partially close for sewer renewal

by Sheli A. Lulkin
ASCO President

There are many benefits to living on Sheridan Road — the views, the neighbors, and life never gets dull. This year, we will be moving into construction season with an unprecedented determination as Edge-water plans to combine sewer relining with traffic diversion and construction of three new buildings on Sheridan Road.

The relining will be accomplished in two phases, the first from Thorndale north to Granville and the second north to Loyola University and around the bend to the intersection of Broadway, Devon and Sheridan. CTA buses will be diverted differently for the two phases. Special shuttles are being arranged for the handicapped and elderly. Thorndale will become two-way temporarily.

Malibu East will sponsor a special meeting for its residents 7:30pm Feb. 11 in the Windjammer Room. At this time the various diversions and traffic patterns will be explained. Residents will have an opportunity to hear a presentation and ask questions of various city agencies.

The 104-year-old Sheridan Road sewer, built the year George Gershwin and Paul Robeson were born, has outlived its life expectancy and needs repair. Fortunately for us, the city has new technology that makes the work comparatively painless. A resin lining will be inserted into the sewer in block-long segments. Once the pumping process begins, hot water is pumped into the



Broadway Armory Sheridan Road sewer project meeting
Representative of Chicago's Water Management Dept. met with local business leaders and building managers/engineers at one of many meetings to explain the details of the project.

sewers to “cook” the resin for an around-the-clock, five-day period. Insertion of the segment is dependent upon the weather, but once the process begins, it cannot stop for five days.

The team that put this plan together is made up of several city departments and Ald. Mary Ann Smith and is led by representatives from Mayor Daley's office. ASCO was at the table for the final stages.

Sheridan Road is scheduled to partially close on Monday, Mar. 3. The outer lane in each direction will remain open as preparation work begins. Two weeks later, the actual work will begin. Building sewers have to be connected to bypass systems so that sewerage continues to flow.

The outer northbound lane will remain open to local traffic throughout construction. Access will remain open to all buildings, but some segments of the southbound lanes will be closed during construction. The implication for Malibu East drivers is that during some construction stages they will have to approach the building from the south. This could involve driving down Broadway

or Winthrop to Thorndale or Ardmore and then east to Sheridan.

The entire project is expected to last four months. During that time, a city Web site, updated daily, will provide information. Local Web sites will have links to this site. In addition, the Dept. of Water Management will provide current information to the building managers so that they can pass it on

to residents.

ASCO is working on getting more police officers assigned to help with traffic diversion. We are also looking forward to experimenting with traffic diversion techniques that we have been recommending for years. One example is diverting southbound traffic down Broadway so that their access to Lake Shore Drive is from Hollywood. We are asking that there be two left-turn lanes off of Broadway.

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MECA board meeting notes

by Elaine Winans

MECA board meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 21

Attendance: 9 board members, 2 management representatives and 10 residents

Not present: Janice Krzesinski, JoAnne Meshbom, Richard Strauss

OPEN FORUM 1

Resident/board member comments and questions:

- 1) President Molins read a letter from Director Janice Krzesinski announcing her resignation, effective Feb. 7, 2003, from the board for personal reasons. She will continue to make available her services as Assistant Treasurer until then.
- 2) Resident: Can the people who ride the stages per our new exterior maintenance contract, while working and examining the exterior of the building, report to management the observation of illegal activity such as balcony floor coverings or gas grills? **Board: Yes, in fact, an illegal balcony floor covering was discovered and was reported to the management office recently.**
- 3) Resident: I purchased my unit with tile already installed on the balcony. How do the charges for balcony repair break down? **Board: You are being charged, as determined by our engineers, for the cost of putting your balcony into a condition so that it could be repaired and the cost of repairing damages to the balcony due to the illegal covering. This includes replacing the entire membrane. You were charged time and material. Per your request, we will request a cost breakdown from the construction company and the engineers.**
- 4) How are the freight elevator repairs coming? They have extended beyond the originally posted dates. **Management: During the original repairs, the replacement of a bearing and ropes as deemed neces-**

sary by city inspectors, it was determined that the rope damage was caused by a faulty wheel pulley. If the pulley cannot be found in parts inventory, it will be manufactured. In either case, the work should not take more than another week.

Construction stage workers will report sightings of illegal activity including balcony floor coverings and gas grills to management.

- 5) Resident: As we have had lightning damage to the building, are we going to install a lightning arrestor on the roof? **Board: Yes, we will do this during the roof reconstruction project.**

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.

- 6) Resident: Are we considering installing a camera that will show visitors in the lobby to residents' TVs via the cable system? **Management: This is on the list of issues that the Security Committee is exploring.**
- 7) Resident: Why is channel 95 not working? **Management: Our computer operating systems were recently upgraded resulting in an incompatibility with the older channel 95 software. An updated driver for the channel 95 software needs to be located and installed.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial statement

Balance on hand, cash and reserves — \$2,443,255.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1) **Security**
Management requested that badges for service people would be prepared as soon as possible.
- 2) **Commercial Property**

Engineering drawings of proposed handicap access to the residential and commercial unit were examined and discussed.

3) ASCO

(See page 5)

Sewer project: Sandy Chaet has arranged for city officials to present a seminar at 7:30pm Feb. 11 in the Windjammer Room.

4) Communications

The Dialogue is currently \$1,300 in the black for 2003.

5) Sports & Entertainment

A survey is being prepared, in conjunction with the Social Committee, to see what activities will generate resident interest.

6) Finance & Insurance

The board expressed its thanks to Fred Stoesser for his fine work in this area.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Items requiring board action

- 1) **Building survey summary**
The final remaining issue is the condition of the racquetball court, which cannot be repaired at this time.
- 2) **2003 window replacement project**
With completion of south wall exterior construction, we will move ahead with this project by updating prices, contacting another vendor and contacting those owners who showed interest in repairs to and/or replacement of sections or all of their window systems.
A board member asked if this type of project could be extended to the replacement of air conditioners.

Items not requiring board action

- 1) **Exterior & balcony project**
The project is essentially completed except for some punch-list items, including damaged wind-break glass and balcony screens. A final bill was presented to the engineers, which made a financial allowance for the punch-list items. The bill was approved with added stipulations that would be finalized by the executive officers.
- 2) **North wall repairs & design status**
Alternative systems (excluding masonry) are being looked at for possible savings.
- 3) **New insurance requirements**

(See article page 7)

4) **Floor-coating responses**

We have 123 positive responses for one or more balconies. Work will commence with warm weather.

5) **New storage lockers**

We have commitments for 24 of the 34 new lockers.

6) **Unit sales**

12H \$239,000

7) **Garage report**

Claims

Approved: 1

Denied: 2

Total: 3

Waiting lists

Single self-park: 68

Tandem self-park: 0

Second car: 0

Monthly parkers

Single: 140

Tandem: 54

Valet: 307

Preferred: 2

Engineer: NC

Motorcycle: 1

Total: 504

New monthlies: 6

Cancellations: 6

Upgrades 1

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

Holiday fund

by *Thomas C. Vaughan*

The employees of Malibu East have asked the Holiday Fund Committee to thank the residents for their generous contributions to the annual Employees Holiday Fund. This year we received in excess of \$24,000 from 303 individuals and families, a dollar increase of 5% from last year. Contributions ranged in size up to \$750 for an average of just over \$80 per contributor. This amount was distributed to the 42 people in the building and our garage who make life at Malibu East so easy and enjoyable. Contributions are allocated to all employees based upon their length of service and annual base salary. The building can be proud that the average tenure of our staff is close to eight years.

Thank you, everybody, for your kindness and also for helping make Malibu East a nice place to work!



What's happening around the building

by *Vito Senese, MECA Association Manager*

Winter has arrived and has put a firm grip on the city! Your building staff has been working very hard to keep the building protected from the elements, and they are always trying to keep one step ahead of Mother Nature. However, if for some reason, you notice any standing water or an icy patch inside or outside the building, please contact the building staff immediately so they can address the situation.

Beginning Monday, March 3, the City of Chicago will be starting the relining of the sewer under Sheridan Road. The project will begin at Thorndale and will end at Devon. The two middle lanes and the southbound lane of Sheridan road will be closed for most of the project. The northbound lane of Sheridan Road will be open during the entire project. The project is expected to be finished by the beginning of July 2003, weather permitting. There will be a very important informational meeting for all residents regarding all aspects of the project 7:30pm Tuesday, Feb. 11 in the Windjammer Room. All residents are strongly encouraged to attend.

RCN still has not corrected the billing

errors on its monthly statements. Furthermore, it has sent out interruption-of-service notices to residents for delinquent accounts, which were caused by these billing errors. Therefore, if you have any questions regarding the status of your RCN account, you may contact Don Lilienfeld at 312-287-8272 or Pam Carmichael at 312-955-4533.

The Board of Directors has several projects slated for 2003. These projects include a new roof, repairs to the north wall and garage, elevator repairs, painting of balcony railings on the north and south sides of the building, balcony floor coating, a new windows program, painting of the boat dock and new storage lockers. Additional information regarding these programs will be issued during the coming months.

Over the past few weeks, the freight elevator has been under repair, and the project was delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. The Board of Directors would like to extend their thanks to all residents for their patience and cooperation during the project and they apologize for any inconvenience that may have occurred.

NOTICE

Personal items, including but not limited to rugs, boots, shoes, umbrellas and decoration displays, are not allowed on residential hallway floors, according to Malibu East rules and regulations. Illegal items left in hallways may be removed by members of our staff.

New balcony/façade project

The Board of Directors has approved a new exterior maintenance program that will dovetail into the completed exterior balcony and façade project. The new maintenance program will begin in 2003 and is a five-year program. In addition to complying with the City of Chicago building ordinance, the pri-

mary goal of the program will be to reduce the future cost and time needed for exterior repairs. The program will include six drops per year and it should take between three to six weeks to complete. The work will be scheduled sometime after Labor Day and will be finished before Memorial Day. You will be notified in writing when the work is scheduled.

Source: Jan. 6, 2003 MECA management letter

Community Calendar

by Rose Wandel

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

BERGER PARK CULTURAL CENTER

Computer lessons

Call 773-761-5792 for info.

Spring class registration

Saturday, Feb. 22, 9am

Lapidary/jewelry making class

Age 18 and up

\$10, plus \$50 material fee

1:30-5pm & 6-9:30pm Tue./Thu.

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, Feb. 5, 7pm

Internet basics

Learn mouse skills, www, e-mail

1st Sat. of month

Children's writing group

Creative writing, grammar, vocabulary.

9:30-11am, 1st & 3rd Sat. month.

Ages 5 to 10 years old

Call Mark Kaplan for info.

1210 W. Elmdale

312-744-0718

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY

Martin D'arcy Museum of Art

Kultur & Kaffee Free lecture

"Dangerous Waters: Sharks in Art"

Feb. 5, 3:30-5pm

"The Art of Courtship, Marriage, and Family"

Renaissance domestic art tour.

\$5, 1-2pm Feb. 8

Call number below for reservations.

6225 N. Sheridan Rd.

773-508-2679



NORTH LAKESIDE CULTURAL CENTER

"Dear Brutus"

NLS Players present a play akin to an Agatha Christie whodunit.

Thru Feb. 23 (none Feb. 21)

\$12-\$15, 8pm Fri./Sat., 2pm Sun.

Join senior citizen orchestra

Call Bonnie Long for information.

6219 N. Sheridan Rd.

773-743-4477

NORTH PARK VILLAGE NATURE CENTER

Mel Meyer's senior workshop

Bldg. H, 5801 N Pulaski

8am - 12:30-pm Mon.-Fri.

Call Art-773-478-5597

5801 N. Pulaski

312-744-5472

WARREN PARK

North Shore Philatelic Society

7pm, 4th Wed. of month.

6601 N. Western

773-743-5015

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

HEARTLAND STUDIO THEATRE

"Frankie and Johnny in the Claire de Lune"

Modern fairy tale of middle-aged waitress and middle-aged short-order cook.

Thru Feb. 9, \$10-\$15

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

Pop music

Open mike poetry & music

\$3, 10pm Wed. (9pm signup)

7000 N. Glenwood

773-728-8111

LIFELINE THEATRE

"Click Clack Moo: Cows that Type"

Adaptation of a children's book.

Thru Mar. 30, ages 5 and up.

\$8, 3pm Sat., 1pm, Sun.

6912 N. Glenwood

773-761-4477

LOYOLA STUDIO THEATRE

"Two Rooms"

Bone room holds a man kidnapped by Lebanese terrorists in Beirut, the second room holds his wife who is waiting in America.

"Eleemosynary"

Tale of confession and avoidance spanning three generations of women.

All tickets \$5, 8pm Thu.-Sun., 2pm Sun.

Loyola University

773-508-3847

"A Servant of Two Masters"

Comedy set in 18th cent. Venice.

Feb. 21-Mar. 2, \$15

7:30pm Thu.-Sun. and 2pm Sun.

\$10 students/seniors

Studio Theatre Mertz LL12

1125 W. Loyola

NO-EXIT CAFÉ

Pop music jazz concert

4pm Sun.

Open mike

8pm Mon., \$2

6970 N. Glenwood

773-743-3355

RED HEN PRODUCTIONS

"That Championship Season"

HS basketball team reunites 20 years after winning the big game.

Call for details.

5123 N. Clark St.

312-409-8123

RAVEN THEATRE

"The Room & Victoria Station"

By Harold Pinter, shown in the Studio.

Thru Feb. 23, \$12

8:30pm Fri./Sat., 7:30pm Sun.

"Sophie's Stories"

Three modern fables

Thru Mar. 2, \$7, 1pm Sat./Sun.

6157 N. Clark St.

773-338-2177

COMMUNITY EVENTS/

MEETINGS

Uptown Head Start

Half and full days, open

enrollment, 3- and 4-year-olds.

1020 W. Bryn Mawr

773-769-5753

Sarah's Circle

Two mile fundraiser-walk for

homeless women.
1:30-4pm Feb. 9
Center is also a drop-in for
transient and low-income women.
Meals, shelter, clothing and more.
773-728-1991

4750 N. Sheridan Rd.

Gallery opening

David Leonardis Gallery
Silkscreen prints by Howard
Finster

Thru Feb. 7, noon-6pm Tue.-Sat.

773-278-3058

1346 N. Paulina

Grandma Please!

Need volunteers, men and women,
55 and older to chat with latchkey
children. Work at home, no cost,
confidentiality assured.

773-561-3500

MECA EVENTS/MEETINGS

Sheridan Rd. sewer project seminar

Tuesday, Feb. 11

7:30 pm — Windjammer Room

Dialogue Committee meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 18

7:30pm — Community Room

Thursday afternoon

discussion group

Thursday, Feb. 20

(every 3rd Thurs. of month)

2:00pm — Community Room

MECA board meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 25

7:30pm — Windjammer Room

City election

Tuesday, Feb. 25

6:00am — 7:00pm Lobby

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

Discussion group dates

Feb. 20

Mar. 20

Apr. 24

May 15

2:00pm Thursdays in the
Community Room.

All Malibu East residents are
invited to come.

ASCO and community news

by *Sandy Chaet*

Tjam Corporation, which includes the owner, Jody Andres, of The Room, bought the Glenway Inn at 1401 W. Devon. A name has not yet been selected. Jody said they hope to be open in mid-April for dinner and in May for lunch. A Sunday brunch will be offered also. The restaurant has enough space for 150 people and has a gated parking lot. Tjam Corporation includes Jody, her partner Amy Matheny and renowned pianist Michael Feinstein.

Sacred Heart School has started its construction. The Kinsley Project across from Malibu has been put on hold. ASCO (*Association of Sheridan Condo/Co-op Owners*) and Ald. Mary Ann Smith are working on returning the #147 bus route to Sunday operations. There is a proposal to open an art bar with parking at 1128 W. Ardmore and there has been much community discussion about this project. The pamphlet explaining it is in the laundry room.

The Community Development Commission voted to award the 1055 W. Bryn Mawr property (former Walgreen's) to the Taxman & Antonovich Development Team. Antonovich is active in preservation issues and researched the original design of the building as part of his goal to restore it to its original beauty. Transitions Books has expressed interest in being a potential occupant.

The Sheridan Road sewer-relining project will start March 3 with a projected June completion. ASCO representatives and Ald. Smith have discussed this project to assure access to every building on Sheridan Road. A representative from the city will come and discuss this project with us at 7:30pm Feb. 11 in the Windjammer Room.

There will be a general meeting, open to residents of Sheridan Road, sponsored by ASCO and Ald. Smith at Emanuel Congregation, 5959 N. Sheridan at 7pm Tue., Feb. 4. The alderman will discuss Sheridan Road issues, including parks, bikes on sidewalks and the sewer project.

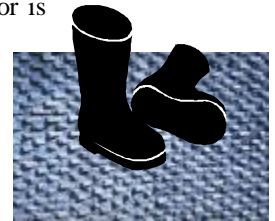
Dear Etta Kitt,



My neighbor put a mat in front of her door. It curls and makes the hallway look sloppy, but I said, live and let live. Now with winter and the sloppy weather here, she's leaving boots, shoes and umbrellas out, also. It wouldn't be so bad if they were there for a short time while they dried, but they stay there day after day. She is not very friendly, and I'm apprehensive about bringing my concerns to her attention. I know that the MECA Declaration prohibits personal items in the common-area hallway, but I'm guilty also as I always hang a seasonal wreath on my door. What should I do?

Miss Apprehensive,

I can sympathize with your concerns about "bearding the lion in the den," as unfortunately, like in all communities, we do have some people with rather vile dispositions. I also understand your concern about appearing equally guilty; but this is where common sense comes into play. We need to be tolerant of the actions of our neighbors, but not to the extent where they diminish property values or compromise our safety. A wreath on a door is not a safety problem, but using one's front door, as a storage area for offensive or dirty items is not acceptable. The outside of your front door is part of your home also, and you have every right to complain to management when you feel offended.



Any item left on the hallway floor, including a doormat, no matter how pleasing to the eye, is a safety concern as it can impede the safe access or exit of firemen or your neighbors in the event that a fire fills the hallway with smoke. It also interferes with the safety of vision-impaired individuals.

Once again, I urge you to use common sense and apply the Golden Rule.

American women in Saudi Arabia

by Katherine Heffernan



Editor's note: Ms. Heffernan is a long-time resident of Malibu East. Shortly after giving this report of her trip to the Middle East to the M. E. Thursday Afternoon Discussion

Group, she left for another tour, this time to South America.

I had the unique opportunity to be a delegate to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as a member of American Women for International Understanding (AWIU) with 15 other delegates co-sponsored by the Royal Family and the Alireza family. Through an unusual and fortunate set of circumstances, we were the first group of American women to be invited into the kingdom. AWIU consists of women leaders throughout the U.S. who represent a cross section of professionals attempting to exchange culture and understanding with women leaders of different cultures.

Before a visa was issued, we had to sign a declaration respecting the morals, customs and feelings of the Saudi society. Alcohol and all types of religious and political materials are prohibited. Religious gatherings are not allowed if contrary to Islam.



The delegates were given their abayas¹ and veils at the Jeddah airport, and we wore them all of the time while in public. Saudi women do not drive and do not go out alone. We delegates were cautioned to do the same.

The women leaders who met with our delegation were on the cutting edge professionally and educationally. They were multi-lingual and had studied abroad in Egypt, Switzerland, England and the outstanding universities in the U.S. Fifty percent of the wealth of Saudi Arabia is in their names and seven percent are employed. Many establishments for medical and human



services are privately financed and managed by women. Visits to these centers usually began with refreshments and the exchange of gifts. The most frequently served drink was coffee made of cardamom and green coffee beans. It tasted different but was pleasant.

The Help Center was established in 1986 by Madam Juffali, who finances and manages it. Currently 320 children who are physically and mentally handicapped are being treated.

Ten years ago, Sultana Alireza established JISH, a center for the hearing impaired. Three of her four children developed hearing problems and they were receiving treatment in California. Sultana decided to get training for herself and established her own treatment center. On her staff are eight women with master's degrees in speech, therapy and a Ph.D. audiologist. All were trained in the U.S., financed by JISH, and intend to remain in Saudi Arabia and spread their work for "the good of the Muslim World."

Nadia Alireza established the Naharat Center in 1994 for cognitive and skill development. She has financed and now directs this institution, which is recognized as a leader for diagnosis and remedial treatment.

At the King Fahd Hospital for Saudi military, the professional staff is 30 percent female and mostly trained in Germany. The anti-venom research center

was conceived and developed by women. The focus is to study the poisonous reptiles and scorpions in the area and to develop vaccines and distribute it throughout the Middle East. Another vital research project is concerned with the frequent intermarriage of close relatives in the nomad tribes and the resulting mental and physical problems.

We visited two women's colleges. These are of great importance as there was no formal education for women a few decades ago. Both colleges were started and financed by women members of the Royal Family. If the professor is male, he gives his lectures on closed circuit TV. He does not see his students, but they can see him.

AWIU delegates were guests of the *Arab News*, an English daily newspaper owned by the Royal Family and censored with regard to them. The News ran a large picture of our group and carried several articles. Christian Amanpour, CNN foreign correspondent, interviewed the group for CNN World News and for a CNN Saudi special.

There was a wonderful, intensive social aspect because of the uniqueness of the delegation. The American ambassador, Robert Jordan, invited us to the embassy for an extended private meeting. On another occasion, his wife joined our group for dinner at a private club in the diplomatic quarters in Riyadh. The wife of the British ambassador, Lady

Plumbly, hosted a dinner at their official residence. She invited several dozen accomplished women to share their activities with us, including fashion design, pharmacology, publishing children's books and interior decorating. Many of the families maintain homes on several continents.

Of particular interest was the home of Prince Sultan bin Salman and his wife Princess Haifa. They live on a date farm on the outskirts of Riyadh in the renovated home of the deceased King Abdul bin Aziz, founder of the Saudi nation and the ancestor of all succeeding kings. Prince Sultan, the Minister of Tourism, does not believe his country will open for tourists except to the Muslim community. Several million pilgrims come to make the Hajj² in Mecca and many more travel to Medina³.

The Raytheon Corporation, battery makers with headquarters in Boston, has a large plant in Saudi Arabia where they assemble the Patriot missiles. We were their guests at a resort on the Red Sea and at their compound, where many Americans live. They confirmed that Christian services are not allowed in the kingdom.

Marianne Alireza of Pasadena Calif., and a member of AWIU, described the vast changes in the kingdom since 1945. When she married Ali Alireza and came to live in Jeddah, the camel was the primary means of travel, and almost everyone was illiterate. There was only one tree in Jeddah, planted in front of the home of a wealthy merchant as a status symbol. The tree is still growing, and the merchant's house is a renovated historical site. Marianne's book, "At the Drop of a Veil," describes her 12 years of life in a harem until her husband divorced her, kept their five children, and sent her back to California.

A great effort is being made to preserve the Saudis' past heritage, which is eroding quickly.

The most powerful and all-pervasive aspect of the culture is the Islamic religion. It was explained to us many times that the Muslim religion believes in one god, just like the Christians and Jews, and that Jesus is mentioned 93 times in

the Koran. The holiest site in Mecca is the Kaaba, believed to contain the altar where Abraham prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac.

The delegates were in Saudi Arabia to appreciate, accept and understand. They learned that women worldwide have a core value and deep concern about others, their education, health, employment and helping the less fortunate.

The "Arab News" described the AWIU delegates as "Twenty First Century Bedouins" who came to Saudi Arabia, the traditional Bedouin homeland."

¹ *Abayas* The women were provided with over-the-head Saudi-style abayas (see picture) with full-length sleeves. It is easy to wear because it has sleeves and is fully open down the front. Weight - 1.4 lbs. The Burqa veil with two layers completely covers the face, leaving only the eyes showing, similar to a full niqab. Weight - 2½ oz. Both are made in Kuwait and can be purchased online at <http://www.alhediya.com/abayas.html>

² *Haji* The pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia, which every adult Muslim of either sex must make at least once in his or her lifetime.

³ *Medina* A city in western Saudi Arabia north of Mecca. Mohammed lived here after fleeing from Mecca in 622. The Mosque of the Prophet, containing Mohammed's tomb, is a holy site for Muslim pilgrims.

Insurance legal update on unit owners' requirements

A board of directors may now, by amending the declaration or by-laws or by simply passing a rule, require its condominium unit owners to obtain insurance covering their personal liability and compensatory damages to another unit or units caused by their negligence or that of guests or visitors. If a lot of associations decide to now require that coverage, there should be a significant increase in the number of unit owners who finally become insured. Statistics show that less than 50% of condominium owners in associations around the country have any such protection for

their potential losses or liability. It is suggested making this policy change by rule because amending an association's covenants is a more cumbersome process. Just because the declaration and by-laws may be silent on homeowners insurance, associations are not prevented from mandating it by rule because the Condo Act specifically gives them the authority to do so.

Water damage frequent

Most damage to a unit due to causes originating in adjacent or above units is water related — leaky toilets and



overflowing sinks or bathtubs. Now an association can require its members to obtain insurance against their liability as the result of these and other causes of loss as a means of protecting other owners against personal losses in their units for damage they do not cause and where the association's own policy will not cover any or all of such a loss. The personal liability of a unit owner must include the deductible of owner(s) whose units are damaged as well as coverage for decorating, painting, wall and floor coverings, etc. Having such insurance against the possibility of a significant loss arising out of a serious damage incident will be to the benefit of owners from whose units the causes originate since they should be able to avoid the possibility of legal action against them because of their lack of coverage.

If unit owners do not obtain this insurance when required by their associations, their boards can acquire it for them and charge the cost back to them as long as the new rules adopted by associations provide for this financial arrangement. The coverage can be mandated in the categories and amounts specified by a board, and the association can be added to each owner's policy as an additional insured. Homeowners can be required to provide proof of coverage annually and their insurers directed to notify an association when such coverage is canceled or not renewed.

Source: "Condo Lifestyles" Oct '02, pgs. 26-27.

My platform for re-election as 48th Ward alderman

by Ald. Mary Ann Smith

Sheridan Road is one of the 48th Ward's most desirable areas, and its residents enjoy many amenities, including a strong voice in community decision-making and priority setting. But Sheridan Road also faces some of Chicago's thorniest issues.



For example, despite being near Osterman Beach and the north end of Lincoln Park, Sheridan Road residents have been park poor for decades. After years of legal and community action to stave off development, we have finally secured as parkland the last remaining piece of open land on the lakefront in Edgewater and another lot on Sheridan Road, the southwest corner of Thornedale and Sheridan. This will become a lovely park, landscaped and fenced according to a plan developed by the community. The last open parcel on the lakefront at 6151 N. Sheridan will become an accessible water's edge park for seniors and those with disabilities, as well as a bird sanctuary. In the last year, with the cooperation of ASCO and the Chicago Park District, we have spent nearly \$4 million to acquire and preserve these two pieces of open space for us and for future generations to enjoy.

Another thorny issue is traffic. The long-awaited solution to Sheridan Road traffic problems lies in Mayor Daley's master plan to extend the lakefront, relocate commuter traffic from the street and develop new parkland. This is a long-term plan that we will be working to develop along with the mayor, the Park District and the community. For the short term, we will work with individual buildings on turning lanes, signal timing and other ways to mitigate congestion and control speeding.

Elimination of the reversible lanes on Lake Shore Drive and instituting the double-turn with LED signals at Sheridan has helped alleviate some danger. The pilot program to "boot" bikes on the Sheridan Road sidewalk and improved signage for the bike paths has been a success that, with your support, I will continue. Mayor Daley recently met with ward leaders, including representatives of ASCO. One of the issues presented was Sunday service for the 147 bus. The CTA is currently re-evaluating its position.

Our business streets and commercial development are another challenge. Bryn Mawr will be transformed with a whole new look and array of services. Construction should begin soon on the condominium building at Sheridan and Bryn Mawr. Transitions Bookplace is negotiating for space in the soon-to-be-redeveloped Walgreens building at 1055, and Nookies Restaurant is negotiating to purchase the building at 1100 W. Bryn Mawr. For the next four years, the same care and attention will be devoted to transforming Thorndale and Granville to safe, pedestrian-friendly neighborhood shopping and dining streets as well.

Some limited lower-density new development is planned for Sheridan Road. A new condominium building with generous parking will be constructed at 5430 N. Sheridan. Any proposal is considered carefully by the community. The developer and architect met with neighboring condominium associations, ASCO and other community groups, then with the 48th Ward Zoning and Planning Committee. As a result of these meetings, plans were modified to conform to community requests. The developer has secured all necessary approvals from the city and is ready to apply for building permits.

In our densely developed urban environment, our problems are often complicated — parking, traffic, open space development are just a few. In the last 12 years we have solved many seemingly insolvable problems such as the acquisition of 6151 N. Sheridan. I look forward to working with you, neighboring buildings and ASCO to accomplish even more in the future.

My platform as candidate for alderman of the 48th Ward

by Kurt Eckhardt

I am a candidate for 48th Ward alderman and a lifelong resident of Sheridan Road, now living in Malibu. Paramount to my campaign is improvements in livability for the 20,000 Sheridan Road residents of this ward and the development of East Edgewater businesses. Clearly Sheridan Road is neglected and we are the "Silent Majority" of the 48th Ward. Below are some issues of acute interest to Sheridan Road and my positions.



Because of a quasi expressway terminating at our door, Sheridan Road is Chicago's heaviest-used non-limited access thoroughfare. While I oppose any expansion of the Outer Drive or the bicycle path, there are solutions to alleviating traffic. It would benefit the entire community to see more traffic diverted to Broadway vis a vis Hollywood. Besides travel considerations this would also help revitalize Broadway with new consumers traveling on what is essentially an underutilized route. The best way to alleviate the madding rush on Sheridan would be to slow down speeds. By perhaps placing short ancillary lights at half block increments from Ardmore to Rosemont, Sheridan Road residents would have an opportunity to safely make turns. This spring the immense sewer project is an opportunity for new creativity, including the construction of left-turn lanes at Thornedale and Granville. As Chicago's gateway, Sheridan Road is in tremendous need of aesthetic enhancements. I will allocate funds for a comprehensive revitalization of Sheridan Road. City ordinance requires that each ward receive equitable funds from the Department of Streets and Sanitation. In the past much of this allocation went for the imple-

mentation of 127 speed bumps and traffic circles west of Broadway. I believe it's Sheridan Road's turn to have access to the improvements these funds can provide.

I will also fight for safer sidewalks by further renewal of the bike-riding ordinance, and I favor stiff penalties, including seizure for violations. In other parts of the city, bicyclists who leave the park must find alternative routes. Why is Edgewater any different? On the subject of public transportation, I pledge to argue strenuously for Sunday 147 bus service and I will not take no for an answer. The 147 is the busiest express line in the CTA system, and it's a sign of how Sheridan Road is taken for granted that even a "premium priced" bus line can't receive proper consideration. Merchants are losing business and the city tax revenue, as Sheridan residents drive to Evanston and Old Orchard on Sundays.

Optimally I envision an East Edgewater where Sheridan Road residents can walk down better-patrolled, better-lit streets, to more vibrant business districts. Our Red Line stops should be centers of vitality, not drug activity. I will ride day and night with Chicago police officers to ensure their proper deployment. Parking is always going to be difficult in this environment, so safe streets are a requisite to revitalization. We have a budding entrepreneurial class here, and they're eager and willing to take advantage of Edgewater's low costs and exciting, diverse demographics. Merchants will find an enthusiastic ally in this alderman. I would like to participate in the marketing of an Edgewater First initiative on Sheridan Road, giving us condo dwellers the knowledge that supporting a vibrant business community is a gateway to public safety and stable property values. My commitment to the attainment of these goals is one reason why over 20 Edgewater businesses have endorsed my candidacy.

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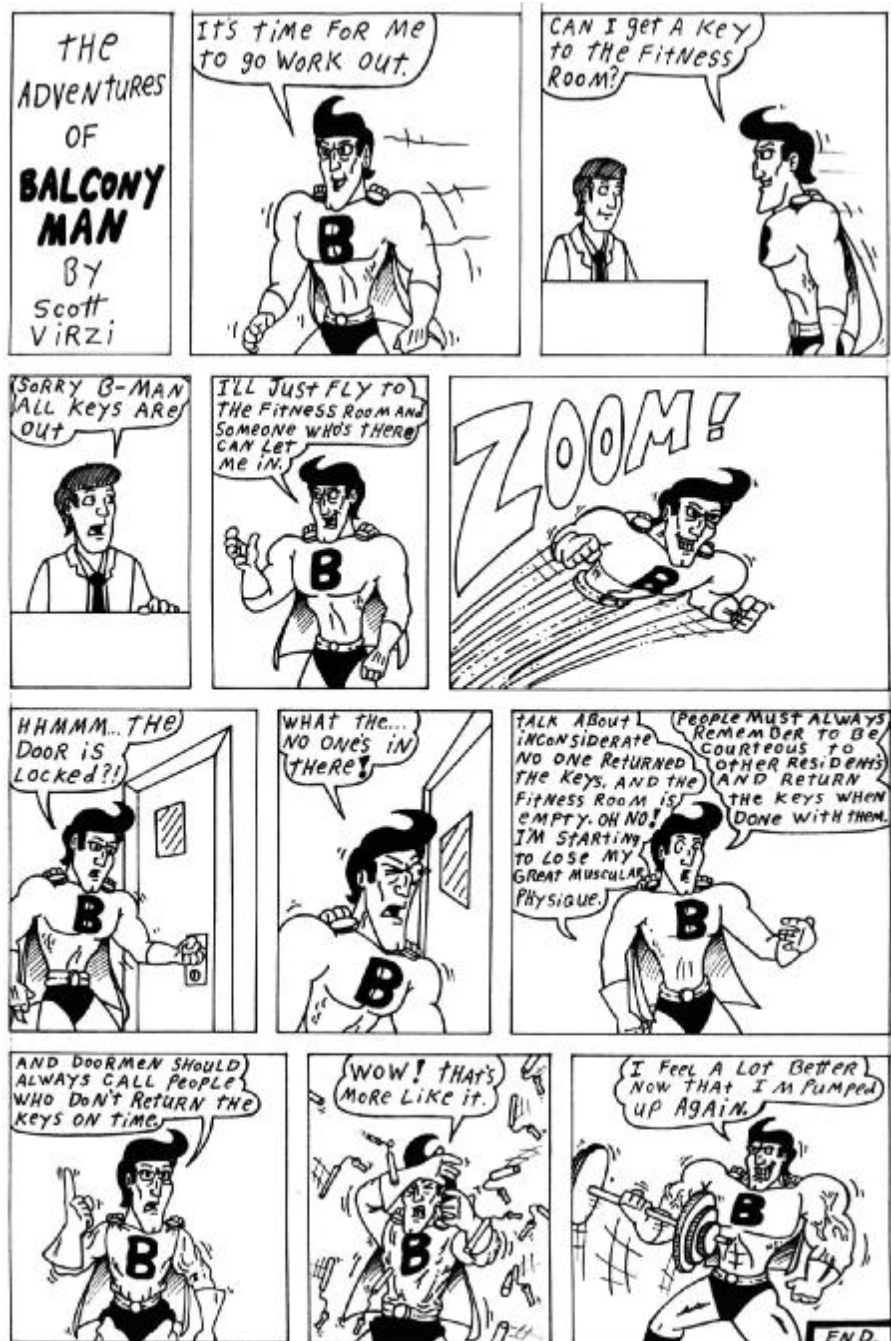
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The Malibu East Condominium Association (MECA) Dialogue is published by resident volunteers to promote communication among owners, residents, the Board of Directors, management and staff of Malibu East Condominium, 6033 North Sheridan Road, Chicago,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

Articles written by and opinions of the MECA 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.

Published monthly and distributed by the first of each month

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