

Malibu East Dialogue

December 2004

Your Communication and Information Resource

22nd Precinct's 83.5% turnout leads city again

November national election

By Thomas C. Vaughan

The national election was held Nov. 2. As usual, Malibu East's 22nd Precinct of the 48th Ward led the city with an 83.5% voter turnout. Of the 583 voters registered for the election (up over 6% from the 548 registered in 2002), 487 exercised their citizenship rights and voted.

The presidential race saw John F. Kerry receive 77% of MECA's votes versus George W. Bush's 23%. Statewide, Senator Kerry received 55% against President Bush's 45%, while nationally, President Bush won the popular vote by 3% and the Electoral College 286 to 252.

In the senatorial race, Barack Obama received 88% of our votes versus 11% for Alan Keyes and 1% for Jerry Kohn. In Illinois, Senator-Elect Obama received 70% of the vote against Mr. Keyes' 27%.

Our current congressional representative, Janice D. Schakowsky, received 81% and Kurt Eckhardt gathered 19%. In the full 9th Congressional District, Representative Schakowsky received 76% of the vote versus Eckhardt's 24%.

Our state representative for the 14th District, Harry Osterman, ran unopposed.

The State's Attorney of Cook County, Richard Devine, received 84% (71% countywide) over Phillip Spiwak. Eugene Moore received 74% of our votes and prevailed over John Cox while Dorothy Brown garnered 77% of our votes and won over Judith Kleiderman; another sweep for the Democratic candidates in Chicago.

MECA's lobby polling location again



opened at 6am with voters waiting in line and closed as scheduled at 7pm. In spite of the judicial ballot including 80 contests, delays were never more than a few minutes. The flow was steady the whole day, with few voters appearing past 6pm. As it is now comfortable for most residents, voters again ran their own completed ballot cards through the precinct ballot counter, which allowed them to instantly know if the ballot was 1) mistakenly not initialed by an election judge, 2) was undervoted, 3) overvoted, or 4) both undervoted and overvoted.

Provisional ballots were available for this election for individuals who claim to be registered in the precinct but whose name did not appear in the records, or for first time, mail-in registrants without identification. These ballots were not counted in our precinct numbers but were separated with any appropriate documentation and adjudicated at the Board of Election Commissioners' headquarters. These first-time voters were then required to submit ID to the Board within 48 hours of the election if it wasn't available at the time they voted.

Working as election judges for the almost 16-hour day were MECA residents Norma Edgar, Adeline Kalant, Betty Mayian, Vern Rose, and the writer. Election judges are always needed in the city. Should anyone have interest in working future elections, they can con-

tact the Election Board, either of the two ward committeemen, or any of our election judges.

For those citizens not registered to vote, this can be completed at Chicago's public libraries or in person at the Board of Election Commissioners' offices at 69 West Washington (the Brunswick Building across the street south from the Civic Center). Its telephone number is (312) 269-7900 for information. Periodically, the election board also sets up registration booths at neighborhood locations and festivals. Watch for publications of such opportunities.

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MECA board meeting notes

by Elaine Winans

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.

MECA board meeting Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2004

Attendance: 11 board members, 1 management representative and 13 residents
Not present: Carol Beatty
Not present for budget vote:
Allan Eckardt

OPEN FORUM 1

Resident comments and questions:

- 1) Dr. Bastani examination rooms cold. *Repairs should be completed in 10 days.*
- 2) A request that the dog run be re-configured into three separate areas. *Referred to Pet Committee.*
- 3) Complaint of cigarette butts and trash in the area around the front door. *Management instructed to present available options to the board.*
- 4) Does MECA's insurance company deal with individual owners? *We are investigating whether our insurer will write policies for individual owners.*
- 5) How does the holiday fund work? How does salary and history work? Who makes that decision? *We do not rate employees by merit. We distribute according to formula, 75 percent for seniority and 25 percent for salary. The committee is composed of board members who calculate the bonuses and issue the checks We make a list of who donated, but not how much was donated by individuals.*
- 6) Not getting the top third of TV channels with the new setup. *Manager Chiodo will personally look into it.*
- 7) Complaints passed on from the Hispanic community about missing Hispanic channels. *Referred to the Cable TV Committee.*
- 8) Which committees can residents join and how do we contact them? *The December issue of the Dialogue will have the new committee assignments.*
- 9) In which part of the garage will

construction be done next? *The third floor southwest section.*

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial statement

Balance on hand, cash and reserves — \$2,642,744.30.

2005 Budget approval

Comments and questions from residents concerning the budget and the reserve fund were answered by board members. The board's policy is to avoid special assessments at all costs.

The 2005 budget was approved by a 9 to 1 vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1) **Rules & Regulations/Legal**
Marcel Molins
The revised Rules & Regulations will be brought to the next board meeting for a review before presenting to the owners for comment.
- 2) **Floor Representatives & Security**
Both of these committees will schedule January meetings.
- 3) **Social**
Sandy Chaet
The board requested monthly parties. The Social Committee arranged a game night that resulted in poor attendance. Game nights are out for now.
Hanukkah candle lighting
Lobby, 5:30 pm Dec. 9
Holiday party
Lobby, 6pm Dec. 15
Excess books in library will be given to a non-profit group.
Will start meetings with new owners after the New Year.
- 4) **Commercial Property**
Marcel Molins
The delay in repairs to the Captain's Walk tenant (electrical fire in Dr. Bastani's office) was due partly to insurance delays.
- 5) **Architecture & Aesthetics**
Marcia Fishman for Carol Beatty
We have picked out two themes for hallway renovation out of several

proposals.

6) ASCO

Sandy Chaet

The 48th Ward Zoning & Planning Committee will meet Dec. 3. The Sheridan Road parkway planters will be decorated Dec. 1.

7) Garage

Martina Molins

The garage construction period will last approximately three months.

Standard Parking report

Claims

Approved:	2
Denied:	0
Total:	2

Waiting lists

Single self-park:	34
Tandem self-park:	0
Second car:	0

Monthly parkers

Single:	141
Tandem:	50
Valet:	308
Preferred:	2
Engineer:	NC
Motorcycle:	2
Total:	503

New monthlies:	4
Cancellations:	6
Upgrades:	2

8) Parent

Marcia Fishman

A great time was had by all at the Halloween party. (See article, page 5.)

9) Sports Entertainment

Neil Warner

Still working on having a yoga class.

10) Communications

Neil Warner for Carol Beatty

The Dialogue continues to maintain a small profit.

11) Cable

Tom Vaughan

Will meet with USA Wireless to discuss the TV channels.

SEE BOARD NOTES PAGE 10



What's happening around the building

by Chris Chiodo, MECA Manager

Bike Registration: (FINAL EXTENSION) This is a reminder, if you haven't registered your bicycle, even if it has been registered in the past, you must register your bicycle again. Please go to the management office for a free registration form and a new sticker (maroon). The blue sticker is no longer valid. Beginning Dec. 1, 2004, I will direct our maintenance staff to remove any bicycle that does not have the new MAROON sticker displayed on it.

RCN Equipment Return: As of Nov. 24, 2004, the management office can no longer accept Cable TV or Internet equipment from the residents of Malibu East. If you have not returned the equipment to the management office, to avoid a fine, you will have to return all equipment to RCN located at 350 N. Orleans 6th floor in Chicago. The equipment includes Cable Box Converter, Remote Control, Power Cord and Modem (Internet users). Each unit will vary according to the amount of RCN equipment you have.

USA Wireless Satellite TV: As every-

deleted, please make that request in writing only and send it to the management office.

Garage Construction Project: Please be aware that Phase II (2nd & 3rd floors) of the garage construction project is scheduled to begin Jan. 10, 2005. During this phase many single self-park residents will have to become valet and/or relocate their car next door at Malibu. The affected parkers will be notified in the near future. Also, we will not be able to accept guest parking during this project due to limited space. Please inform any of your guests they will have to find other means of parking when visiting. Please be aware of any future correspondence regarding this project.

Lower Level & Laundry Doors: As of Nov. 8, 2004, the lower level door for entering the elevator lobby & the laundry room door, including the key card readers, have been repaired and are working properly. We are inspecting these doors numerous times a day and they have been functioning well during

Reminder

With the coming of winter weather, remember that it is against MECA rules to store anything on the hallway floors including: rugs, boots, shoes, wet clothing, seasonal statues.

one is aware as of Nov. 1, 2004, USA Wireless has taken over as our new cable TV provider. I know during this transition phase changing over from RCN, many of you may have experienced some kind of technical difficulty with your service. Please don't be alarmed; this is common with this kind of changeover. If you continue to experience problems, do not contact the management office or DIRECTV, only contact USA Wireless. They can be reached at 1-800-433-4558. If there is a question about the channel lineup or if you would like to see channels added or

that time.

Laundry Room Flooding: I would like for the residents to know that management & maintenance are aware of the continuous flooding problem in the laundry room. We have contacted and will continue to contact plumbing companies that can come up with an answer to solve our problem without breaking into the ground and causing a disruption to everyone. I will keep everyone informed of our progress.

Holiday Party: The MECA Social Committee would like to invite all the

residents to our annual Holiday Party. The party is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 15 at 6:00pm in the lobby. Some refreshments will be provided. Please bring something to share with your neighbors, such as an appetizer, dessert or finger food. The success of this party will depend on everyone contributing something.

Hanukkah Lighting: Please join your friends and neighbors for a toast and to light the First Hanukkah Candle on Tuesday, Dec. 7 at 5:30pm in the lobby. Hosted by the members of the Social Committee.

Employee Holiday Fund: (A message from the Holiday Fund Committee) It is a holiday tradition for the owners and residents to join together in expressing appreciation to those who serve us in many ways throughout the year. The annual Malibu East Holiday Fund provides cash gifts to the approximately 40 men and women, seen and unseen, who work hard to keep the operations of the building running in good order, as well as comfortable and safe for us all year long.

Please make your contribution check payable to the Malibu East Holiday Fund. Include your name and unit number as you want it to appear on the contributors' list.

Contributions should be deposited in the box at the doorman's station no later than 3:00pm Sunday, Dec. 19 to be included in the 2004 fund. Any contributions received after that date will be carried over to the 2005 Holiday Fund.

Just before the holiday, the balance of the fund will be distributed to all persons who work for us, based on salary and history.

On behalf of the entire staff at Malibu East, we thank you for your generosity.

Management Office E-Mail Address: For your convenience, if you need to contact the management office or the Board of Directors for any reason, you may e-mail your requests, concerns, problems, etc., to malibueast@awb.us.

Community Calendar

by Jack Winans



FREE, refreshments will be served
2pm Dec. 18
5358 N. Ashland Ave.
773-506-4849
NORTH PARK VILLAGE NATURE CENTER

Dinner with Santa

Pizza, pasta & more. Treats for little ones, picture-taking with Santa.

6-8pm Dec. 10, \$8

Annual Winter Solstice

Event featuring chestnut roasting on an open fire, seasonal music, luminary lit trails and an original shadow play on a 50-foot screen.

Dec. 18, 6-9pm, FREE

5801 N. Pulaski

312-744-5472

THEATER/SHOWINGS

AMERICAN THEATER CO.

"It's a Wonderful Life"

A radio play based on the Capra film.

Opens Dec. 8

1909 W. Byron

773-929-1031

CORN PRODUCTIONS

CORNSERVATORY

4710 N. Lincoln Ave.

312-409-6435

"Tiff and Mom and the Meaning of the Magi Gift Mix-up"

Dec. 1-Dec. 17

8pm Wed. -Fri.

\$6 Wed, \$12 Thu./Fri.

FACTORY THEATRE

(Located in the Prop Theatre)

"Ménage A Trailer"

A night of three one-act plays rips the siding off of three different trailers to expose the rednecks, refugees and reprobates that dwell within.

Thru Dec. 19, \$18

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

3504 N. Elston Ave.

312-409-3247

LIFELINE THEATRE

"A Long Way From Chicago"

The year is 1929 and Chicagoans Joey and Mary Alice are packed off for the summer to visit Grandma Dowdel's seemingly sleepy Illinois town. But it's far from sleepy—and she's not your typical grandmother.

Joey and Mary Alice are in for some adventures they'll never forget.

Thru Dec. 11, \$18-\$24

7:30pm Fri., 4 & 8pm Sat., 5:30pm Sun.

"Snowflake Tim's Big Holiday Adventure"

Tim, a lonely boy, must go on a quest to bring his little sister home for the holidays. Lifeline Theatre Kid Series.

1pm daily except Christmas

Dec. 18 thru Dec. 31, \$9

6912 N. Glenwood

773-761-4477

RAVEN THEATRE

"A Streetcar Named Desire"

New Year's Eve performance of Streetcar with complimentary champagne and door prizes.

7:30pm Dec. 31, \$35

6157 N. Clark

773-338-2177

COMMUNITY EVENTS/

MEETINGS

Dog fashion show

Holiday party and dog fashion show, people food, champagne and dog treats.

Bark Bark Club

6:30-9:00pm Dec. 2

1106 West Granville Ave.

Holiday concert

Edgewater Singers, Free

7:30pm Dec. 11

Bethany Lutheran Church

Magnolia & Thorndale

MECA EVENTS/MEETINGS

Hanukkah candle lighting

Tuesday, Dec. 7

5:30pm — lobby

MECA board meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 14

7:30pm — Windjammer Room

Holiday party

Wednesday, Dec. 15

6:00pm — lobby

Thursday afternoon

discussion group

No meeting this month

(every 3rd Thurs. of month)

2:00pm — Community Room

Dialogue Committee meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 21

7:30pm — Community Room

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

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

BERGER PARK

CULTURAL CENTER

First Bytes

Free Computer Lab

Adults & children age 6 & up
Children by registration only
Saturdays, 1-4pm
Free Wi-Fi available on campus
773-761-5792

Park District programs

Actor's and Writer's Riff

Dramatic readings of original works by Write by The Lake students

2:30pm Dec. 5, \$5

Berger Park Advisory Council

Open meeting to discuss new playground to be built at Berger Park in 2005.

10:30am Dec. 7

Workshop performance

Performance of original writings by After School students.

4:30pm Dec. 7

Holiday Concert

Featuring holiday music and star vocalists from The Chicago Studio of Professional Singing with participation by Berger Park After School students.

7pm Dec. 13, \$5

6205 N. Sheridan Rd.

773-761-0376

EDGEWATER

BRANCH LIBRARY

CAPS 24th Dist. Beat #2433

Come meet our beat police.

Wednesday, Dec. 1, 7pm

(1st Wed. of every month)

Saturday Book Club

11am 1st Sat. month

1210 W. Elmdale

312-744-0718

EDGEWATER

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

"Those Were the Days Radio Players"

Part 3 of Garish Summit, a Bob and Ray spoof of soap operas.

Halloween party

By Chris Barragan

The MECA Parent Committee hosted the annual Halloween party in the Windjammer Room Oct. 30. In the past, the party has been one of the most heavily attended, and this year proved to be another "ghoulish" success. Over 30 children plus adults came to enjoy a variety of snacks, desserts and Halloween fun. Games such as pin the nose on the witch, mummy wrap, pass the apple and spooky songs freeze dance were a big hit! Everyone showed their artistic talents by decorating their own pumpkin. Face painting with a Halloween flair was all the rage. For those who "dare to enter," a "mad scientist" laboratory was constructed by the talented older kids, who showed great imagination. Our newer residents mingled and met other families in the building, and I am sure numbers were exchanged to set up play dates in the future. If you didn't attend, you missed a "haunting" good time!



Winter holiday door decorating contest

By Jack Winans

The third annual unit door and residential hallway winter holiday decorating contest is coming. Decorations must be displayed by Monday, Dec. 20 to be eligible for judging. Floor decorations are not acceptable.



Management requests that all decorations be hung with no damage to the unit doors. The cost of repairing nail holes will be passed on to the unit owners. Please hang decorations from the doorknocker, the doorknob or from a strap over the top of the door.

If you would like to be a judge (your anonymity will be preserved), please contact MECA Director Carol Beatty by Dec. 12.

Restaurants open Christmas Day

by Betty Mayian

Andies, Greek-Mediterranean
5253 North Clark St.
773/784-8616

Angels, Mexican-American
5403 North Clark St.
773/271-1138

Carson's

The Place For Ribs, American
5970 North Ridge Ave.
773/271-4000

Charlie's Ale House, American
5308 North Clark St.
773/751-0140

Deluxe Diner, diner
6349 North Clark St.
773/743-8244

The Edgewater, American lounge
5600 North Ashland
773/878-3343

Ethiopian Diamond, African
6120 North Broadway
773/338-6100

Fireside Pub, American

5739 North Ravenswood,
773/878-5942 / fax 773/878-7615

Hopleaf, Belgian
5148 North Clark St.
773/334-9851

La Fonda, Latino Grille
5350 North Broadway
773/271-3935

Mei Shung, Chinese & Taiwanese
5511 North Broadway
773/728-5778 / fax 773/728-6962

Reza's, Persian
5255 North Clark St.
773/561-1898 / fax 773/561-9896

Spiritinis, Grinder sandwiches
1100 West Thorndale
773/743-5013

Standees, 24/365 diner
1133 West Granville
773/743-5013

Turkish Cuisine & Bakery,
Mediterranean
5605 N. Clark St.
773/878-8930

Wing Hoe, Chinese
5356 North Sheridan
773/275-4550

2004-05 COMMITTEES

Membership limited to board members unless otherwise noted

Admissions

Martina Molins (Chair)
Marcia Fishman (Vice Chair)
Carol Beatty
Keith Grubb
Avany Penaherrera
Neil G. Warner

Communications

Carol Beatty (Chair)
Neil G. Warner (Vice Chair)
Marcia Fishman
Allan Eckardt
Avany Penaherrera
Tom Vaughan

Finance & Insurance

Tom Vaughan (Chair)
Neil G. Warner (Vice Chair)
Carol Beatty
Keith Grubb
Martina Molins
Richard Strauss

Grievances and Appeals**Board Officers**

Marcel Molins
Richard Strauss
Tom Vaughan
Neil G. Warner
Keith Grubb
Marcia Fishman
Cass Buscher

Long Range Planning and Special Projects

Allan Eckardt (Chair)
Keith Grubb (Vice Chair)
Cass Buscher
Marcia Fishman
Richard Strauss
Tom Vaughan

Employees' Christmas Fund

Neil G. Warner (Chair)
Tom Vaughan (Vice Chair)
Sandy Chaet
Keith Grubb
Avany Penaherrera
Richard Strauss

Building Maintenance and Services

Carol Beatty (Chair)
Avany Penaherrera (Vice Chair)
Allan Eckardt
Keith Grubb
Marcia Fishman
Martina Molins

Garage

Martina Molins (Chair)
Richard Strauss (Vice Chair)
Cass Buscher
Keith Grubb
Marcia Fishman
Avany Penaherrera

Security

Sandy Chaet (Chair)
Cass Buscher (Vice Chair)
Allan Eckardt
Marcia Fishman
Tom Vaughan
Neil G. Warner

2004-05 SPECIAL COMMITTEES**Cable**

Tom Vaughan (Chair)
Neil G. Warner (Vice Chair)
Sandy Chaet
Allan Eckardt
Marcia Fishman
Keith Grubb

STANDING COMMITTEES

(Membership open to residents, committees elect their own chairs, and is assigned board liaisons as listed.)

Architecture & Aesthetics

Carol Beatty/Keith Grubb/Richard Strauss

Commercial Unit

Tom Vaughan/Carol Beatty/Sandy Chaet/Allan Eckardt/Marcia Fishman/Avany Penaherrera

Communications/Dialogue

Carol Beatty/Allan Eckardt/Tom Vaughan/Neil G. Warner

Floor Representatives

Keith Grubb/Tom Vaughan

Garage

Martina Molins/Marcia Fishman/

Richard Strauss

Legal

Cass Buscher/Neil G. Warner/Martina Molins

Public and Community Affairs

Sandy Chaet/Keith Grubb

Social and Educational

Sandy Chaet/Carol Beatty/Marcia Fishman/Richard Strauss

Rules & Regulations

Cass Buscher/Neil G. Warner/Tom Vaughan/Martina Molins

Pets

Sandy Chaet/Marcia Fishman

Parents

Marcia Fishman

Sports and Entertainment

Sandy Chaet/Keith Grubb/Tom Vaughan/Neil G. Warner

**Board of Directors
2005 Meeting Dates**

January 25
February 22
March 22
April 26
May 24
June 28
July 26
August 23
September 13
(Annual Meeting)
September 27
(Budget Meeting)
October 11
November 22
December 13

Dialogue reprints

Reprints of Dialogue pages are available in color on photo paper at the price of \$1 per page. Call or e-mail the editor with your requests.



Balcony floor painting

By Jack Winans

After the third bout of repairs to our balcony floor, the haphazard pattern of patches and the differing shades of green looked really tacky. It appeared as if a really inept amateur handyman had patched and painted in an array of mismatched colors. Although the association is diligent in repairing time and weather damage to our balconies, they just don't have the financial resources to make each and everyone's balcony appear pristine.

So when management made the offer to coat the entire balcony in one color at cost, we thought that it was a good financial investment, in that it would make a more favorable presentation to a possible future buyer — as well as "improve" our view.

The deal came with a free scraping and painting of the railings and was completed on schedule in one day. The only downside was a couple of days of a powerful chemical smell as the paint cured. After a week of curing, we ventured out onto the balcony, replaced the furniture and flowerpots and started to enjoy our newly restored balcony.

If you are interested, call management now and schedule your balcony painting for next year at this year's prices.

Dog fashion show

By Patty Colendrea

Could your dog be the next top supermodel?

Join us for our annual Holiday Party & Fashion Show with your furry friends. Enjoy food, bubbly champagne & yummy dog treats while watching the hottest doggy models in Edgewater. The Bark Bark Club, along with our friends at Fig Media Productions, will be hosting a dog fashion show at our annual Bark Bark Club Christmas Party at 1106 West Granville, Thursday Dec. 2, 6:30-9:00pm.



Berger annual Pottery & Jewelry Show

By Deborah Maddox

Berger Park hosted its annual "Pottery and Jewelry Show" Nov. 20-21. Students from Boris Popovic's lapidary classes at Berger and Green Briar parks and from Louis Franceshetti's pottery classes were on hand to display and sell their work. Several original pieces of jewelry were raffled off much to the delight of the winners. The Berger Park staff and Advisory Council will sponsor a similar fair this summer.



Left: Louis Franceshetti, Pottery Instructor
Right: Boris Popovic, Lapidary Instructor



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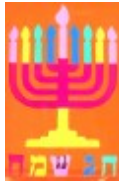
910 Skokie Blvd. Suite 114
Northbrook IL 60062
(a Malibu East resident & neighbor)

December holidays

December is the time for many holidays. As your friends and neighbors at Malibu East celebrate their particular holiday and customs, greet them with the warm spirit that this time of year brings to all of us.

The Story of Hanukkah

Hanukkah is the festival of lights that is celebrated for eight days, starting on the 25th day of the month of Kislev (Nov/Dec), to commemorate the victory of the Jews over the Hellenist Syrians in 165 BCE. Following their victory, the Maccabees, sons of the Priestly Hasmonean family which led the Jews in their revolt against the Syrian overlords, entered the Holy Temple in Jerusalem defiled by the Syrian invaders, cleansed it and dedicated it anew to the service of good. Then, in memory of the festival, the Maccabees celebrated the 1st Hanukkah. (Hanukkah is the Hebrew word for dedication.) The most important observance associated with Hanukkah is the lighting of the Hanukkah lights on the Menorah, a seven or nine-branch candelabrum. On each night more and more lights are lit, beginning with one candle on the first night of Hanukkah, and ending with eight on the final evening. The lights are accompanied by the saying of blessings and the singing of songs.



Happy Kwanzaa

This year marks the 38th anniversary of Kwanzaa, a cultural festival during which African Americans celebrate and reflect upon their heritage as the products of two traditions. During this weeklong holiday they focus on traditional African values of family, community, responsibility, commerce, and self-improvement. Kwanzaa is neither religious nor political and despite some misconceptions, it's not a substitute for Christmas. It is just a time of reaffirming African American people, their ancestors and their culture. Kwanzaa, which means "first fruits of the harvest," has come to be observed by more than 13 million people in the United



States, Canada and throughout the world since its founding in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga.

The celebration starts Dec. 26 and lasts for seven days. Kwanzaa is based on seven principles that are called Nguzo Saba. They are Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity) and Imani (faith). Each day of the holiday one principle is highlighted.

General Christmas traditions

Christmas is very popular worldwide. About 1.5 billion people observe it, and the numbers get bigger every year. Christmas is one of the most powerful and oldest traditions in our history, known everywhere by both kids and adults. Christmas to many of us is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. That is where the word Christmas comes from.

Ramadan

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Muslim calendar. The month of Ramadan is also when it is believed the Holy Quran "was sent down from heaven, a guidance unto men, a declaration of direction, and a means of salvation."



It is during this month that Muslims fast. It is called the Fast of Ramadan and lasts the entire month. Ramadan is a time when Muslims concentrate on their faith and spend less time on the concerns of their everyday lives. It is a time of worship and contemplation.

During the Fast of Ramadan strict restraints are placed on the daily lives of Muslims. They are not allowed to eat or drink during the daylight hours. Smoking and sexual relations are also forbidden during fasting. At the end of the day the fast is broken with prayer and a meal called the iftar. In the evening following the iftar it is customary for Muslims to go out visiting family and friends. The fast is resumed the next morning.

Reprinted from the December 1996 Dialogue

How to pet-proof your home for the holidays

The bright colors and intoxicating scents of the holiday season are enough to transform any moping mutt or cranky cat from melancholy to downright jolly. Unfortunately, many of the delights and decorations of the holidays pose significant health risks to your companion animals.

As our schedules and environments change during the holidays, many companion animals react with curiosity by exploring new objects with their mouths. PETCO offers the following safety tips on keeping pets safe and healthy for many holidays to come.

Christmas trees

Pine needles can get lodged in an animal's esophagus, making it painfully prickly for your pet to swallow. Even drinking the water from the Christmas tree base is enough to cause diarrhea, mouth sores, vomiting and loss of appetite. Cover your tree stand tightly with skirting and distract your companion animal from tree temptations with holiday toys and treats.

Deck the halls

During the holidays, a bunch of fresh mistletoe may be a symbol of love, but to your curious cat or canine, temptingly red berries look more like a sweet treat. Eating the leaves and berries could cause a drop in blood pressure. Ivy can cause diarrhea, convulsions, and in some cases even death when eaten in large quantities. Holly and poinsettias are other poisonous plants to keep away from inquisitive companion animals.

Tinsel and lights

A flickering flame and shiny decorations intrigue companion animals. When lighting the menorah, advent wreath or decorative candles, keep pets in another room where paws and claws can't reach them. With electrical lights, remember to tape exposed electrical cords to walls or floor to ensure no chewing or tripping. Tinsel and gift-wrap may look like fun toys but they can cause choking, upset stomach or even more serious problems.

Visions of sugar plums

Dogs may love to sniff your holiday goodies but theobromine, an active ingredient found in chocolate, could have a highly toxic effect. Avoid offering chocolate as a treat. If your dog develops a sweet tooth and discovers an improperly stored stash, it could lead to a tragedy. Keep dogs' jaws busy with holiday rawhide candy canes and oversized bones such as those found at PETCO. If he or she shows signs of illness such as vomiting, loss of appetite, or excessive water intake, contact your veterinarian immediately. Proper nutrition and plenty of fresh, unfrozen water are essential to your companion animal's winter health.

Let it snow

Pets, especially very young and older animals, can suffer stress, frostbite and hypothermia when their body temperature drops just a few degrees below normal. The tips of the ears, feet and tail are common areas to be affected. Watch for the formation of ice balls between your companion animal's toes and regularly trim the long hair between the footpads to avoid frostbitten feet. If you suspect frostbite, do not rub the area but simply apply warm, moist packs and contact your veterinarian.

Antifreeze alert

Antifreeze contains ethylene glycol, which causes rapid and permanent kidney damage to your companion animal if it ingests even a very small amount. It takes only 6 milliliters of antifreeze to kill an average-sized cat. A cat can walk through an antifreeze puddle and ingest it while cleaning its paws. For a dog, it takes only 60 milliliters of anti-

freeze to kill a 30-pound pup. A dog could ingest this much with a few laps out of an open container or from a puddle on the garage floor.

Source: petco.com

Dinner with Santa



This season, the Chicago Park District grants wishes for a dinner with Old St. Nick to Chicagoans young and old alike with its "Dinner with Santa" program. The event is slated to take place at Broadway Armory Park Dec. 10.

Dinner with Santa is open to all ages. The entrance fee includes a family-style dinner (often pizza), games, children's arts & crafts projects, holiday music, photos with Santa and a live show.

Due to the event's growing popularity, advance ticket sales are recommended. Contact the park for more details.

Broadway Armory Park

5917 N. Broadway
(312) 742-7502
Fri., Dec. 10 from 6-8 pm

Source: Patricia Welsh, Chicago Park District

Please bring food

The two success stories of our annual holiday party are:

1. We get a chance to share the holiday spirit with our neighbors.
2. We get to share our neighbors' culinary skills.

So please bring your special finger foods to the party Dec. 15 to share with your neighbors and friends.

MECA garage rates

Effective Jan. 1, 2005

New monthly rates

1 st motorcycle	\$43
1 st single self-parking	111
1 st tandem parking	101
1 st valet parking	91

Monthly surcharges

Preferred	\$30
2 nd vehicle	25
3 rd vehicle	30
4 th vehicle	80

Guest parking rates

Up to 1 hour	\$3
1 to 2 hours	4
2 to 4 hours	6
4 to 6 hours	8
6 to 12 hours	12
12 to 24 hours	15
Weekly	50

Parking coupons

\$30 value for	\$25
\$60 value for	\$50

Available in MECA office in \$1, \$2 and \$5 denominations.

NOTICE: There are no new third or fourth vehicles permitted if there is a waiting list for second vehicles.

See our garage manager to sign up or to check the status of the waiting list or for any questions on the garage rates.

Don't forget, you must register your guests for garage parking privileges.

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**.

Free poinsettias

Each year our lobby is decorated with large, beautiful poinsettias. They are given away free each year on a first-come, first-served basis when lobby decorations are removed. If you would like to give a poinsettia a post-season home, please sign up in the management office to receive a free poinsettia. You will be notified when they will be available. Free printed care instructions are available.

Reach 500 units here plus 50 condominium offices!

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Community news

To improve security in the Edgewater area, surveillance cameras will be installed at Granville, Thorndale, Bryn Mawr and Berwyn elevated stations as part of the SSA#26 initiative (Special Service Area \$26).

The digital video camera system will record activity surrounding the stations

in order to dissuade illegal activity as well as to protect our neighbors and our visitors. Proposals from several surveillance companies are being considered to ensure that the best and most cost efficient solution will be selected.

SSA#26 has been established in Edgewater to improve the appearance and security of the Broadway business district as a part of our drive to promote development and redevelopment. This will be a 10-year initiative paid for by a

tax levied against the businesses that are located within the boundaries of the designated area.

Power washing and snow removal of all sidewalks in the area will be included and new trash receptacles will be added to help keep our neighborhood clean.

The Edgewater Chamber of Commerce will coordinate the SSA and has assigned Tom Jerome as administrator to handle the day to day activities.

Source: Edgewater Chamber of Commerce

Clip & Save

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

MECA Doorman's Station	271-1769
MECA Garage Office	271-5193
MECA Management Office	271-1732
MECA Receiving Room	271-2608
Sudler (Management Co.)	312/751-0900

CAPTAIN'S WALK MALL

Dr. Bastani	506-9600
Dr. Horbal	275-0110
First Commercial Bank	564-4122
Live Life Fit	343-8041
Sheridan Hair & Body Studio	561-6595
Malibu Cleaners	728-6023
Malibu Convenient Store	769-5440
Wagner Realty	334-0200

CITY SERVICES/UTILITIES

Aging & Disability	312/744-4016
Alderman Mary Ann Smith	784-5277
Assessor's Office	312/443-7550
Chicago Transit Authority	312/664-7200
Chicago Park District	312/747-2200
City Hall Inquiry & Info	312/744-5000
Com Ed	800-334-7661
Consumer Services	312/744-4006
48th Ward Streets & San	312/744-2130
Police (24th Dist.)	312/744/5907
Police/Fire Emergency Only	911
Police/Fire Non-emergency	311
USA Wireless	800-433-4558
RTA Travel Information	312-836-7000

BOARD NOTES FROM PAGE 3

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Items requiring board action

1) *Copier proposals*

The Clear Image proposal was approved.

Items not requiring board action

1) *North wall repairs status*

Now painting the second tier.

2) *Atrium wall repairs*

Hope to be demobilized by Nov 24. Still some interior work to be done.

3) *Garage construction repairs*

Scheduled to begin Jan 10. Arrangements have been made for parking at Malibu for those cars that will have to be moved out of the building during construction. Also some self-parkers will have to be valet-parked during construction. Some cars will have to be moved from the 2nd floor (due to shoring) as well as all cars from the third floor construction area. All owners affected will be notified.

4) *Unit sales*

40K \$245,500

07G \$224,000

5) *Façade repairs*

Letters will be sent to all units that will be affected. Those units whose balconies were painted gray will be painted green at no charge.

6) *Board committee appointments*

Approved after changes.
(See page 6.)

7) *Employee holiday party*

(See mgmt. report, page 3.)

8) *2005 board meeting dates*

Approved (See page 6.)

NEW BUSINESS

1) *CoinMach rate request*

Denied CoinMach request to increase coin operation from 50¢ to 75¢.

RATIFICATION OF ACTION TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION

1) Approved contract negotiations with TV suppliers.

The meeting ended at 9:40pm and went into closed session.

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; however, 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.

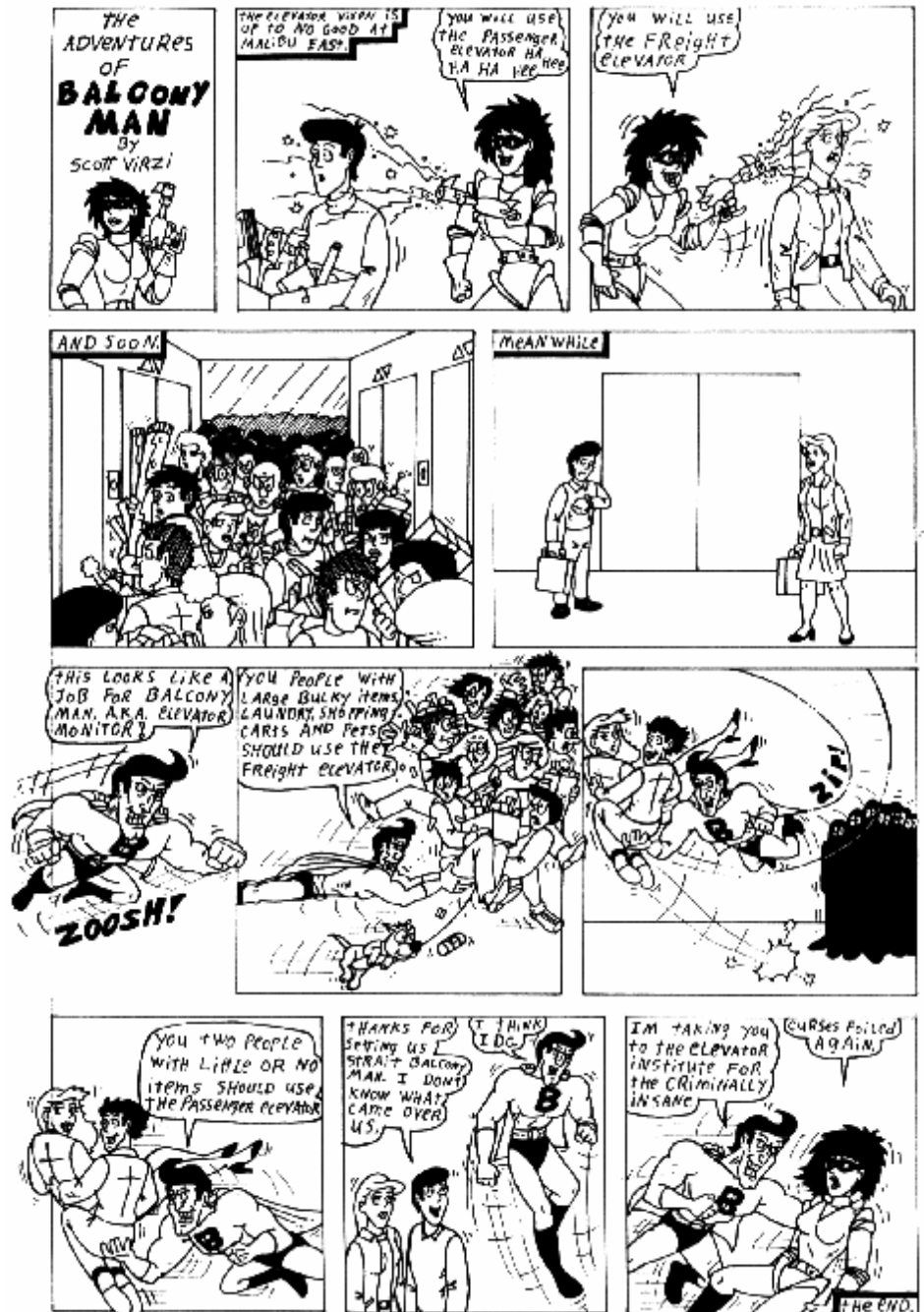
'Town Crier' announcements by Betty Mayian

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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2201 W. Howard St. at Ridge

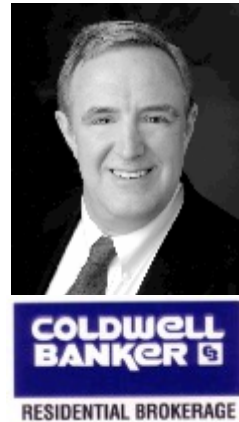
2935 W. Peterson Rd. - Coming soon!



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Dialogue@MalibuEast.org

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Saturday	8:00-5:00	TELEPHONE: (773) 561-6595
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The Dialogue

The Malibu East Condominium (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 MECA or its Board of Directors and management.

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

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