

# Malibu East Dialogue

March 2011

Your Communication and Information Resource

## Power shortage — tales of woe and warmth

### Hot coffee

#### Jack Winans

Awakening at 2am to what? Nothing. No little, red lights are shining in the darkness to tell me that all of the electronic gadgets and appliances that we depend upon so much are alive and well. Nothing! A fuse? Nope, the next room was pitch black also — no little night-lights, no power strip lights, NOTHING!

Yet, across the way, north to East Point, I see unit lights, so I know the world hasn't come to an end. Back to sleep, we've had power outages before, and they've never lasted more than a couple of hours.

Awake again at 8am (we're night people) and no power — worse, no hot coffee. We can warm up our bodies with coats and blankets, but we need to warm our souls with that morning burst of caffeine. I look in the hall and — viola! — hallway lights. I quickly fill the two-cup coffee pot and plug it into the hallway outlet. It works! Burgle-burgle — hot coffee coming up. I take a cup to my caffeine-starved neighbor Pierre. He then brings out his big pot — but another disappointment, the plug has gone dead, along with most of the hallway lights.

A few calls around and I find that our mathematical genius, Fred Groat on 33, has also called around and figured we'd lost power to units on every third floor from 27 up through 45. A call to the desk alerted me to a party for "power-outers" was being hosted by Dee Dee Doherty with snacks and coffee in the fourth floor Community Room. The warmth in that room that came from both those assembled and the working heaters certainly brightened the spirits of those lucky enough to find the winter storm haven.



#### By Sandy Chaet

My 30<sup>th</sup> floor was one of those without electricity. No telephone, computer, television, lights, heat, coffee pot, etc. I learned how much I rely on electricity! The people on my floor were wonderful. In the only hallway outlet that worked, a coffee pot was set up and was shared, along with food. We went from unit to unit and even stayed in the hallway, talking, sharing and supporting each other; the best part was enjoying each other's

company to make the day go easier! It was great to see how many of the residents who did have power came to share and check on us, even offering their warm units. It was great to see how people bonded and helped one another. On the fourth floor, residents were also experiencing our community caring. At night, two residents brought dinner to share! Thanks!

Thanks to Lou Colletti and his staff for making sure we were safe and our sidewalks were shoveled. Thanks to our doormen, Gilbert and Robert (and Noel from the maintenance staff), for their patience with our endless questions and sending the elevators to our floors as needed. Thanks to our garage hikers for staying past their shifts and making sure the garage was covered. Thanks to Norma for opening the receiving room that night! Thanks to Lou, Mike Rostescu and Chris Chiodo for staying with ComEd until all floors had power restored.

Malibu East showed we are a community. Thanks to all for your concern, generosity, cooperation, patience, acts of kindness and community spirit. It was much appreciated!



### Extension cords to the rescue

#### Dee Dee Doherty

Ah, the joy of a winter storm. I have a story about the 36<sup>th</sup> floor. If life hands us a lemon, make lemonade. I had the warmest unit on the floor (66° vs. others at 64°-62°). After our sojourn in the Windjammer and Community rooms, I talked with fellow residents and said I would leave my door open and they should come in for coffee/tea, cookies and blueberry bread (I had some left from the 4<sup>th</sup> floor sojourn). So from about 5pm, first Ara and Betty came for dining on whatever we could line up — baloney/turkey sausage and four oven-fried chicken legs left over from my dinner the night before, fruit, macaroni salad, ziti w/chicken, cheese and crackers. Eventually others came by. We ran our power strips off the one outlet in the hallway and attached laptops, cell phone chargers, a fish tank with four Zebra fish and my coffee pot. Also, Irene and Christine brought out their coffee pot to make hot chocolate. We told stories (I confess, as usual, I did most of the talking), and the puppies on this floor came to visit, Mah Jong, my Siamese cat, was a gracious lady and offered her water bowl for the pups to drink from, and I also think Tasha ate some of her food. When the lights came on at 10pm, I ran down the hall singing the notes to "Stars and Stripes Forever" — it was a delightful end to what could have been very sad and nerve-jarring had we stayed in our own units.



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## MECA board meeting notes Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2011

By Elaine Winans and Neil Warner

Elaine@MalibuEast.org

Attendance: 9 board members, 1 management representative and 6 residents

Not present: Sandy Chaet, Marcia Fishman, Eleida Gomez

Presiding: President Molins

### OPEN FORUM 1

#### Resident comments and questions:

- 1) Could more be done to communicate with residents during a power outage? *The voice communication system that will be installed in the near future to satisfy the city's life safety requirements should help to alleviate this problem. The board and management will try to develop a better plan for the future.*

### REVISIONS TO AGENDA

- 1) Carryover of 2010 budgeted reserve amounts

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Neil Warner

#### 1) Financial statement

Balance on hand, cash and reserves  
\$2,777,343.57

#### 2) Delinquencies

\$209,535.50

#### 3) Audit

Audited 2009 financial statements were mailed today to all owners.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### 1) Rules and Regulations

Marcel Molins

Several new rules will be proposed to the board.

#### 2) Garage

Martina Molins

Standard Parking report

Alex Diakoumis, Mgr.

##### Claims

Approved:	3
Denied:	1
Pending:	2
Total:	6

##### Waiting lists

Single self-park:	5
Tandem self-park:	0
Second car:	0

##### Monthly parkers

Single:	123
Tandem:	27
Valet:	272
Preferred:	1
Motorcycle:	0
Engineer:	NC
Total:	423



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.

#### Garage capacity

Single	144
Tandem:	72
Valet stalls:	295
Valet aisles	20
Motorcycles:	3
Total:	534
(Under capacity)	111

#### Changes

New monthlies:	2
Cancellations:	16
Upgrades	0

#### 3) Sports and Entertainment

Neil Warner

New yoga class runs through March. New carpeting for Billiard Room has been ordered.

#### 4) Finance & Insurance

Neil Warner

Will have new insurance quotes at March meeting.

#### 5) Cable

Neil Warner

Problems with HD reception on several channels; USA Wireless notified.

### MANAGEMENT REPORT

Dean Lerner

#### Items requiring immediate board action

##### 1) Garage compressor-dry sprinkler system

Low quote approved at cost of \$3,995.67.

##### 2) Billiard Room lighting

Electrical work approved at cost of \$1,940; light fixtures approved at cost not to exceed \$450.

##### 3) Carryover of 2010 budgeted reserve amounts

Board provided authority to pay capital expenses in 2011 that were budgeted and contracted for, but not paid, in 2010.

#### Items requiring future board action

##### 1) Building main drain clean-out program

Conflicting information from vendors will require further investigation.

##### 2) Repairs to heating elements for laundry room, Captain's Walk and hallways.

Awaiting details from management.

#### Items not requiring board action

##### 1) Laundry room contract expires 3/25/12

More electrical work to be done.

##### 2) Façade ordinance repairs

No work being done at this time.

##### 3) Garage construction project

On schedule.

##### 4) Unit sales

30G	\$190,000 sale
13J	\$1,400 lease

## Management report

By Chris Chiodo



**Assessments:** Assessments are due by the first of each month. A late charge will be assessed for any delinquent account on the close of business on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Please send remittance to:

Malibu East Condo Assoc.

% Sudler – 80

8401 Innovation Way

Chicago, IL 60682-8401

The management office will not accept assessment checks.

**Parking garage repairs 2011:** A work progress board has been set up outside the management office. We are on schedule and have not run into any problems that would lengthen the project.

**Driveway:** Unless retrieving your car in the 15-minute parking area, please avoid walking on the driveways during the garage construction project. Use the sidewalk alongside the main entrance or else use the hand-capped-ramp access or the lower-level Sheridan Road door for entering or exiting the building.

**Insurance:** All unit owners must purchase and maintain a minimum of \$500,000 of insurance coverage to cover your potential liability and compensatory damages to another unit, whether caused by the negligence of the owner or his or her guests, residents or invitees, or regardless of any negligence originating from the unit.

**Cable TV:** If you have any cable TV questions, please contact USA Wireless at 847-831-4561.

**E-mail:** You may contact the management office or the board of directors for any reason, with requests, concerns, problems, etc. E-mail to: [malibueast@awbworld.com](mailto:malibueast@awbworld.com)

### RATIFICATION OF ACTION TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION

- 1) None.

### NEW BUSINESS

- 1) None.

### OPEN FORUM 2

#### Resident comments and questions:

- 1) When is the next Floor Representatives meeting? **Wednesday, March 23.**

The meeting ended at 9:15pm and went into closed session.

**Community Calendar**

By *Betty Mayian*

**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**



**BROADWAY ARMORY**

Indoor park, six gym floors, trapeze classes, senior activities, athletic equipment, meeting room, computer center, batting cage, fencing equipment, dancing floor, shuffleboard, weights, arts and crafts, aerobics, ping pong, after-school activities, and more.  
5917 N. Broadway  
312-742-7502  
tinyurl.com/27yyyn

**EDGEWATER BRANCH LIBRARY**

**Saturday Book Club**  
11am 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. month  
Regular hours:  
Mon.–Thu. 9am–9pm  
Fri.–Sat. 9am–5pm  
1210 W. Elmdale  
312-744-0718  
tinyurl.com/5155tl

**EDGEWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Andersonville Historic District Exhibit**  
Two events on Mar. 19.  
10am at Edgewater Library, Neal Semors: “Chicago’s Lake Shore Drive.”  
2pm at Museum: Radio Players performing an hour of comedy from Radio’s Golden Age.  
New museum hours:  
Sat & Sun 1–4pm  
5358 N. Ashland Ave.  
773-506-4849  
edgewaterhistory.org

**WHITE CRANE WELLNESS CENTER**

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

**THEATER/SHOWINGS**

**LIFELINE THEATRE**

**“Moonstone”**  
Widely considered the first English-language detective novel. It is about the theft of the Indian stone, and no one is above suspicion.  
Thru Mar. 27  
6912 N. Glenwood  
773-761-4477  
lifelinetheatre.com

**PROFILES THEATRE**

**“Reasons to be Pretty”**  
By Neil Labute  
Complicated relationships crumble when a wife is not considered pretty by her husband.  
Thru Mar. 13  
4147 N. Broadway  
773-549-1815  
profilestheatre.org

**RAVEN THEATRE**

**“Radio Golf”**  
By August Wilson  
Successful entrepreneur aspires to become Pittsburgh’s first black mayor.  
Thru Apr. 9  
6157 N. Clark  
773-338-2177  
raventheatre.com

**MECA EVENTS/MEETINGS**

**Dialogue Committee meeting**  
Wednesday, Mar. 16  
7:30pm — Community Room  
**Thursday afternoon discussion group**  
Thursday, Mar. 17  
2pm — Community Room (every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs. of month)  
**MECA board meeting**  
Tuesday, Mar. 22  
7:30pm — Windjammer Room

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

**MARCH HOLIDAYS**

**Greek-American Heritage Month**  
**Irish-American Heritage Month**  
**American Red Cross Month**

**Wed 2**  
*Baha’i: Nineteen Day Fast*

**Thu 3**  
*Hindu: Maha Shivaratri*  
*Peace Corps Day: United States*

**Fri 4**  
*World Day of Prayer*

**Sat 5-Tue 8**  
*Brazil: Carnival*

**Tue 8**  
*Mardi Gras (United States)*  
*Shrove Tuesday*

**Wed 9**  
*Christian: Ash Wednesday*

**Thu 17**  
*St. Patrick’s Day (Ireland, United States)*

*Jewish: Fast of Esther*

**Sat 19**  
*Buddhist Magha Puja Day*  
*Catholic: St Joseph’s Day*  
*Jewish: Purim*

**Sun 20**  
*Sikh: Hola Mohalla*  
*Hindu: Holi*  
*Jewish: Purim*  
*Pagan/Wiccan: Ostara*  
*Vernal Equinox*

**Mon 21**  
*Naw Ruz (Baha’i, Persia)*  
*Persian/Zoroastrian: Norouz*

**Fri 25**  
*Christian: Feast of Annunciation*

**Mon 28**  
*Persian/Zoroastrian: Khordad Sal*

**Thanks**

Our most sincere thanks to our dear neighbors and friends who have given so much compassion, understanding and assistance to us during this, our most trying times.

*Your editor and wife*  
**Jack and Elaine**  
*Winans*

## Never be late again

**Dean Lerner, AMS, CMCA**

Senior Account Supervisor  
Sudler And Company



It's no secret that MECA owners can avoid late fees being charged to their account by making sure that their monthly assessment payments are on deposit in MECA's lockbox account by the 15th of each month. "I was on vacation," "I had to go out of town on an emergency," "the post office lost it," "I didn't get the statement," "I got the statement late" and even "the dog ate it" are all familiar excuses, but they may not prevent late fees from being charged. So what can you do to guarantee you will never be late again?

### SNAPP assessment payments

The most foolproof way of assuring that your payment is received on time is to enroll in the SNAPP program. If you enroll in this program, your payment will be debited to your designated checking account, usually on the fifth day of the month. You will continue to receive monthly statements showing the amount that you owe, and you can withdraw from the program at any time. To get an enrollment form or more information, go to the management office.

What is SNAPP? SNAPP stands for Sudler and Company's Automatic Payment Program. How does it work? On the fifth business day of each month Sudler and Company electronically transmits "automatic debit" orders to Bank of America for each unit that participates in SNAPP. Bank of America then electronically transmits automatic debit orders to each owner's bank, and the funds are electronically transmitted directly into MECA's lockbox account. As long as an individual's account has "cleared" funds in their account when the debit order is received by their bank, their MECA account is paid for the month. The entire process can take up to three days or as quickly as one day.

What does "cleared" funds mean? A deposit to your bank account in the form of a check is not considered available cash until the check clears the bank from which the funds are to be drawn. Each

bank may have different rules for when personal checks, payroll checks, foreign bank checks, etc., are considered cleared. Check with your bank to understand its policy.

What happens if an account does not have sufficient funds to cover the SNAPP order? If your account does not have sufficient funds when the SNAPP order is made, an NSF order is returned to Sudler and Company. The MECA office is notified and an automatic \$25 NSF charge is placed against the account. Once the unit owner is informed of the NSF, he/she may send a check (with the coupon) to the bank lockbox to cover the NSF. If the check clears the lockbox before the 15th of the month, there will not be any additional charges levied against the account. If the check clears the lockbox after the 15th, a \$50 late fee will also be charged to the account.

What if there is a charge on my account that I do not agree with? SNAPP is set up so that the full amount of the charges on each statement will be SNAPPED. So what do I do? Contact the on-site office and indicate what you disagree with. If a mistake was made, the office will issue a credit. Your next month's statement will reflect the credit by reducing the amount that will be SNAPPED.

How do I sign up for SNAPP, and if I sign up, how can I stop it? Contact the on-site office for the forms. Follow the instructions and return the completed application and account information. It will take approximately 30 to 45 days before SNAPP begins. Once your participation in SNAPP starts, you will still get a monthly statement. However, a reminder indicating that your payment will be made through SNAPP will appear just above the return coupon. Anyone can withdraw from SNAPP by notifying the office (in writing) by the first of any month. Participants in SNAPP who are selling their units must cancel SNAPP two months prior to the sale or they will be required to escrow two months of assessments before the closing can take place.

Sign up for the program and you will never be late again, even if you're on vacation!

**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 the common-area hallway next to one's front door as a storage area for offensive or dirty items is not acceptable. The hallway 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.

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## CTA North Red Line project meeting

By Betty Mayian



On Jan. 5, the CTA held a modernizing project meeting that involves our EI — the North Red Line that currently has stations at Granville and Thorndale. We would be affected by many of the proposed solutions to improve and repair the EI from Belmont to Evanston's Linden terminal (9.5 miles). The meeting was held at Senn High School and included poster boards that showed each proposal. There was at least one person at each location who would answer an individual question about that proposal. There was a brochure that essentially did the same. I read and listened to all the proposals and will try to summarize what I heard. The impact of all the proposals will be analyzed as the projects advance. During the initial phase, the CTA and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will host public meetings to explain alternatives and accept public comments, called "scoping." I advise that if you have questions about the alternatives, go to the CTA Web site at [www.transitchicago.com/rpmproject](http://www.transitchicago.com/rpmproject) and comment either via e-mail at [rpm@transitchicago.com](mailto:rpm@transitchicago.com), by phone at 1-888-968-7282 or by mail to Steve Hands, Strategic Planning & Policy, CTA, P.O. Box 7602, Chicago, IL 60680-7602.

The reason behind the project is that the North Red Line's infrastructure is significantly past its useful life (nearly 100 years), as is the Purple Line's. There were studies done from fall 2009 to fall 2010 to gauge which project alternatives would be studied.

So, what has to be done to modernize the EI through our neighborhood?

- Bring it to a state of good repair (most of it was constructed between 1900-1922 and is dilapidated).
- Reduce travel times (antiquated infrastructure and curves demand slower service).
- Improve access (includes work access and reverse commutes).
- Better use of existing infrastructure.

- Provide access to persons with disabilities (at all stations). Only six of 21 stations have ADA access.
- Support area's economic development initiatives and current transit supportive development patterns.
- Area population is growing and is highly transit-reliant and diverse. (Without rail lines the buses and cars would further congest the road network.)

The North Red Line portion being considered for modernization is between Belmont and Howard (5.8 miles with four tracks and 13 stations). We are mostly interested in what would happen with the Granville and Thorndale stations. The project options are:

1. No action. Absolute minimum repairs, travel times increase, and reliability would degrade. No new ADA access.
2. Basic rehabilitation. Includes a mix of repairs, rehabilitation and replacement — providing adequate service for the next 20 years. No modernization except to upgrade all stations to ADA standards. Current embankment structures will be maintained and upgraded.
3. Basic rehabilitation with transfer stations. Same as option 2 but with new transfer stations at Wilson and Loyola. With new upgrades to embankment structures, their useful life will be extended to 60–80 years and the rest of the improvements to 20 years.
4. Modernization 4 Track. This option would affect us by **removing the Thorndale station, but adding access entrances at Glenlake** to the Granville station and at Hollywood to the Bryn Mawr station (as well as other entrances along the route). The infrastructure changes include straightening of curves that slow service, replacing existing embankment with a modern concrete and aerial structure, consolidate stops and provide more entrance access points, and safely speed up transit times.
5. Modernization 3 Track. By removing one track, the wider platforms would be accommodated. Some curves would be straightened, and modern concrete aerial structure would also



Granville station

extend useful life to 60-80 years.

**Thorndale station would be closed with access to the Granville station at Glenlake.**

6. Modernization 2 Track Underground. This option would replace a significant portion of the existing four-track elevated rail with a below-grade, two-track alignment that would run underneath Broadway from the Sheridan/Broadway Station until it goes elevated north of Loyola. Subway stations would be constructed (including Foster, Bryn Mawr, **Glenlake** and Devon/Loyola). Some right-of-way acquisitions would be needed. Curves would be straightened and new subway stops would be provided. Useful life of 60-80 years.

The next steps are to have preliminary engineering studies and then make a decision among the various options. A date for the start of the construction will have to be determined, and funding will be required for these next steps.

### 'Town Crier' announcements by Rodica Ilc



We welcome all new residents to our building, including:

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

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CHICAGO, IL 60660

TELEPHONE: (773) 561-6595  
(773) 561-6596

**CLOSED MONDAY**

## Magic show

By *Sandy Chaet*

On Sunday, Jan. 30, Keith Cobb, a magician who has performed for the Chicago Bulls, Chicago Bears, Chicago Cubs, and at Navy Pier, performed at Malibu East. The event was chaired by Social Committee member Greg Christiansen. Over 55 people came to enjoy magic tricks and humor appropriate for all ages. All kinds of magic tricks were performed, with many in the audience participating. Guest appearances by Stevie the Rabbit, Snort the Dragon and the Invisible Genie were enjoyed. At the end, Keith provided balloon animals for all the children, as well as some of the adults.



## Malibu East Condominium

6033 N. Sheridan Road  
Chicago IL 60660-3033  
773-271-1732

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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. Its staff reserves the right to edit those letters which it sees fit to print and to print only those with constructive content. Letters to the *Dialogue* Committee may be left at the management office.

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