

Malibu East Dialogue

December 2011

Your Communication and Information Resource

Residents dance, listen to Sinatra singer

By Betty Mayian



On Nov. 5, the Social Committee met in the Windjammer Room to put out the treats for the people who would attend the free musical event of the year (for MECA). Sandy Chaet had received information from one of our neighbors about a talented singer who can sound like so many of the romantic singers from the '40s, '50s, and '60s. Sandy brought this to the Social Committee's attention, and we decided to try him out for one of our events. We hoped that the people in Malibu East would enjoy and appreciate his work.

Art Fitzgerald is a singer of considerable talent, and Tommie McPherson is the disc jockey who plays the music behind Art's singing. Art calls Tommie his Nelson Riddle. At 7:45 p.m., when the crowd was seated, Art informed us that there were a couple of floor spaces that could be used for dancing. His music lends itself to dancing, toe

tapping, and singing along.

At first a small group of children went to one of the dance floors and bounced along to the music and to their own inner beat. It took a few more songs for one adult couple to take heed and begin dancing on the other "dance floor." They started something, because soon four or five other couples joined them.

Most of Art's repertoire revolved around the songs of Frank Sinatra (about 25). He did a couple of Tony Bennett numbers, an Engelbert Humperdinck, and a Paul Anka. He does Dean Martin, too. You might expect him to sing "My Kind of Town (Chicago Is)" and the iconic "New York, New York," so when he sang "Chicago (That Toddlin' Town)," I commented that Chicago beat New York two to one! The other numbers had a perfect beat and style that made "Old Blue Eyes" great. All the favorites, including "All the Way," "That's Life" and "My Way" were sung to perfection.

You might not look at Art and see Frank Sinatra, but on this Saturday night, Malibu East listened and we heard his voice – right here.

It is pretty clear that we should have Art and Tommie back sometime. Since we can expect him to return, that would be a great time for those of you who haven't heard him to do so! When asked where else he has performed, Art replied that Gibson's, Ditka's, Misericordia and private parties were what he



did in Chicago, but he has appeared at a winery in California, an air show in Fort Lauderdale, and in Las Vegas, among other venues.

For those of you who go by the numbers, 40-plus people were in attendance at the party. There was room for more – and more should have come. The attendees enjoyed apple cider, coffee, crudités, chips, dip, cheese, crackers and cookies. A resident supplied some homemade brownies. Another brought a tray of mixed olives. It was quite a success. Watch for more from your Social Committee.

(Continued on page 3)



Malibu East events and meetings

Dialogue staff meeting

Wednesday, December 7
7:30 p.m. - Community Room

MECA board meeting

Tuesday, December 13
7:30 p.m. - Windjammer Room

MECA Holiday party

Everyone is welcome - finger food
Wednesday, December 14
6:00 p.m. - Lobby

Thursday afternoon discussion

Thursday, December 15
2:00 p.m. - Community Room
(every 3rd Thursday of the month)

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



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MECA board meeting notes

By Neil Warner

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 during the next meeting and may be viewed or copied in the management office.

Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2011

Attendance: 10 board members, 1 management representative and 5 residents

Presiding: Vice President Richard Strauss

REVISIONS TO AGENDA

- 1) "Holiday fund letter" added to Items Requiring Immediate Board Action.
- 2) "Staff service recognition" added to Items Requiring Immediate Board Action.
- 3) "Boat dock ceiling repair" added to Items Requiring Immediate Board Action.
- 4) "Garage painting" added to Items Requiring Immediate Board Action.
- 5) "Electric service provider" added to New Business.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Neil Warner

1) Financial statement

Balance on hand, cash and reserves
\$2,480,730.04

2) Delinquencies

Approx. \$247,000

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1) Social - Sandy Chaet

Nov. 5 party featuring Art Fitzgerald was a success (see article, Page One). The holiday party will be held at 6 p.m. Dec. 14 in the lobby (see article, Page 4)

2) ASCO/Public & Community Affairs - Sandy Chaet

Thanks to all who wrote or emailed to Mayor Rahm Emanuel or Ald. Harry Osterman about retaining the condo garbage rebate, which was reinstated in the city's budget, albeit at a reduced amount (see article, Page 8). ASCO has placed 19 planters along Sheridan Road, including the one between Malibu and Malibu East.

3) Garage - Marcia Fishman Standard Parking report as of Oct. 31 - Alex Diakoumis, Mgr.

Claims

Approved:	0
Denied:	0
Pending:	0
Total:	0

Waiting lists

Single self-park:	3
Tandem self-park:	0
Second car:	0

Monthly parkers

Single:	143
Tandem:	11
Valet:	270
Preferred:	1
Motorcycle:	0
Engineer:	NC
Total:	425

Garage capacity

Single	152
Tandem:	40
Valet stalls:	298
Valet aisles	20
Motorcycles:	3
Total:	513
(Under capacity)	88

Changes

New monthlies:	5
Cancellations:	9

Upgrades 3

4) Sports & Entertainment - Neil Warner

A new yoga class will begin Dec. 5.

5) Finance & Insurance - Neil Warner

The 2010 audit is nearly completed and will be mailed to owners soon.

6) Long-Range Plans & Special Projects - Carl Stahlheber

Committee is in the preliminary stages of investigating the feasibility of installing solar panels on the building. Also looking into our water usage and how we might cut costs.

7) Communications - Neil Warner

Dialogue continues to publish monthly eight-page issues. Still looking for an editor.

8) Building Maintenance & Services - Eleida Gomez

Investigating options for replacing oriental carpet in lobby.

9) Life Safety - Sandy Chaet

Expecting to receive vendor's mock-up for project in early December.

MANAGEMENT REPORT - Janet Hope

Items requiring immediate board action

1) Adoption of 2012 budget

Motion to approve budget as presented to owners was approved. Assessments will increase by 4% in 2012.

2) Adoption of rule regarding display of religious symbols

Motion to ratify rule as presented to owners was approved.

3) Holiday landscaping display

Motion was approved for holiday landscaping at cost of \$3,054.

4) Lobby plant maintenance contract

Motion was approved to accept proposal of new vendor to maintain lobby plants at a cost of \$180 per month plus tax.

5) Resident requests for religious displays

Moved to closed session.

6) Board meeting dates for 2012

Tabled.

7) Holiday fund letter

Motion to send holiday fund letter to residents and non-resident owners was approved.

8) Staff service recognition

Ten employees will be recognized at the staff holiday party for reaching length-of-service milestones as specified under MECA's employee recognition program.

9) Boat dock ceiling repair

Motion was approved authorizing Executive Committee to secure a vendor to repair the boat dock ceiling, subject to procuring additional quotes and engineers' determination that the work can be successfully undertaken in winter.

10) Garage painting

Motion was approved authorizing the Executive Committee to hire a vendor to paint the interior of the garage during winter, subject to the engineers' approval.

Items requiring future board action

1) Laundry contract

Special committee will investigate our options for new washers and dryers in preparation for the expiration of the current contract.

2) Life safety upgrades

Discussed in committee report.

Items not requiring board action

1) None

RATIFICATION OF ACTION TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION

- 1) Motion was approved to accept the essence of the Illinois Human Rights Commission recommendation regarding the use of religious symbols and to advise the owners by letter.
- 2) Motion was approved to reimburse a tenant for \$843 in damages.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Electric service provider.

Tom Vaughan investigated a number of electricity providers, with the help of a third party, and determined that we would be best-served by staying with our current provider, Constellation NewEnergy, and locking in a rate for a fixed term.

The meeting ended at 10:50 p.m. and went into closed session.

Special owners' meeting notes

Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2011

Attendance: 10 board members, 1 management representative and approx. 60 residents

Presiding: Vice President Richard Strauss

The regular Board meeting was preceded by a special owners' meeting to discuss two agenda items:

1) Exercise of right of first refusal with regard to unit 40F.

Owners discussed the pros and cons of the Board exercising its right of first refusal on the unit, and the Board provided an update on the status of the eight units on which the Board previously exercised. A motion authorizing the Board to exercise its right of first refusal on unit 40F at the purchase price of \$146,000 was overwhelmingly approved.

2) New rule with respect to religious displays.

Richard Strauss provided the audience with a chronology of events leading up to the Board's decision to adopt this rule, which provides for the display of religious symbols in the Community Room upon approval by the Board. Attendees engaged in a spirited discussion of the merits and shortcomings of the proposed rule, as they saw it, and other alternatives that might be available to the Board. Strauss told the audience that the rule was based on a binding agreement that the Board had reached with the State of Illinois Human Rights Commission.



What's happening around the building

By Janet E. Hope, MECA Manager

Assessments:

Assessments are due the first day of each month. A late charge will be assessed by for any delinquent account on the close of business on the 15th of each month. Please mail remittance to:

Malibu East Condominium
c/o Sudler - 80
8401 Innovation Way
Chicago, IL 60682-8401

The Management Office will not accept assessment payments.

Did you know you can also pay your assessments online, by credit card or by direct debit? You can also view you assessment account history. Register for Sudler@Home today; further information is available in the Management Office or online at

SudlerAtHome.com

Dog owners:

Please remember to pick up behind your pets and keep them out of ALL landscaping areas, including the rocks around the Captain's Walk entrances. A dog run is provided for ease of walking your pets, but it is NOT the building staff's responsibility to pick up their feces. Please take a bag out with you, pick up behind your pet and deposit in the garbage cans provided. Allowing your dogs on any landscaped area to urinate kills the grass and other plants and encourages other animals to follow. If your pet has an "accident" inside the building, please report it promptly so it can be cleaned immediately, to prevent permanent staining and odors. Also remember that pets are not permitted in the passenger elevators.

Winter reminders:

Balconies: The winds coming off the lake can be very strong during the winter months, so please ensure all items are either removed from your balcony or safely tied down to prevent them from being blown off. This especially applies to lighter-weight items.

Heat:

Please remember, if you are leaving town for an extended period, to leave

your heat on, (it can be left at a low temperature) to prevent frozen pipes.

Snow removal:

During snowy weather please enter and exit the driveway with caution; there may be a staff member working to remove snow. Always proceed with care; the staff does its best to keep sidewalks clear for you, but given our proximity to the lake, icy patches develop very quickly. If you notice slippery conditions, please report them to any staff member.

Email:

I encourage you to contact me via email with any comments, suggestions, request or complaints. My email address is MECAmgr@sudler.net

Rodica Ilc can also be contacted via email regarding all routine matters such as work orders, document requests, etc. She can be contacted at MECAoffice@sudler.net

Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Longtime staff to be honored

Malibu East is blessed to have a number of employees who choose to make this their workplace for extended periods. In 2007 the Board of Directors instituted a program that would recognize such employees when they reached various milestones for length of service.

At the upcoming holiday party for our employees, the Board will recognize the following individuals:

- Noel Raboza (maintenance, 30 years)
- Norma Bolante (receiving, 20 years)
- Armando de le Cruz (maintenance, 20 years)
- Manuel Sanchez (maint., 10 years)
- Jose Noriega (maint., 10 years)
- Froylan Sanchez (maint., 10 years)
- Gilbert Richardson (doorman, 10 years)

In addition, the Board will honor a pair of our security persons for serving us 15 and 10 years, and Howie Stahle, who has served as a handyman for residents and assisted the staff on projects for 40 years.

MECA party (Continued from page 1)





Community Calendar
By Betty Mayian

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

BROADWAY ARMORY

Indoor park, six gym floors, trapeze classes, senior activities, athletic equipment, meeting room, computer center, 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

Library building is closed during construction (see article, Page 8 of August Dialogue).

A bookmobile is now available in the Broadway Armory parking lot:
Tue-Thu: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., 2 - 6 p.m.
Fri-Sat: 9 a.m. - noon, 1 - 5 p.m.
(closed on Sundays and Mondays)
tinyurl.com/5L55TL

EDGEWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

"Edgewater Grocery Stores 1886-today"

Regular museum hours:
Saturday and Sunday 1-4 p.m.
5358 N. Ashland Ave.
773-506-4849

www.EdgewaterHistory.org

WHITE CRANE WELLNESS CENTER

Adult day wellness programs for persons 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

ST. GERTRUDE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Sat., Dec. 3, 10 a.m.-4p.m.,
Sun., Dec. 4, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
1421 W. Granville

LE GALLERY THORNDALE HOLIDAY FAIR

Sat., Dec. 10, 11 a.m. -5 p.m.
1106 W. Thorndale

A-VILLE HOLIDAY POP-UP GALLERY

Tue-Sun, 6-9 p.m. until Dec. 31
1515 W. Berwyn

THEATER/SHOWINGS

LIFELINE THEATRE

"The 13 Clocks" Kids Series

A wicked duke has locked his niece in a high tower. A wandering minstrel, really Zorn, the Prince of Zorna, vows to free her.

Thru Dec. 4
6912 N. Glenwood Ave.
773-761-4477
lifelinetheatre.com

PROFILES THEATRE

"A Behanding in Spokane"

A comedy about a mysterious gun-toting man searching for his missing left hand for decades. This dark work exposes absurdities.

Thru Dec. 4
4147 N. Broadway
773-549-1815
profilestheatre.org

RAVEN THEATRE

"Bus Stop"

By William Inge
Stranded passengers of a cross-country bus explore love in all its many guises.

Thru Dec. 11
6157 N. Clark
773-338-2177
raventheatre.com

REDTWIST THEATRE

"Opus"

A story about a string quartet and a bitter clash of wills between two leaders. One is ousted by the other and replaced by a young woman.

Dec. 10 thru Jan. 15, 2012
1044 W. Bryn Mawr
773-728-7529

2011-12 Board of Directors

- Marcel Molins, President
- Richard Strauss, 1st Vice President
- Thomas Vaughan, 2nd Vice President
- Neil Warner, Treasurer
- Kim O'Neal, Assistant Treasurer
- Marcia Fishman, Secretary
- Carl Stahlheber, Assistant Secretary
- Sandy Chaet, Director
- Maria Damp, Director
- Allan Eckardt, Director
- Eleida Gomez, Director
- Martina Molins, Director

Social Committee news

By Sandy Chaet



Malibu East's annual holiday party will be held Wednesday, December 14, beginning at 6 p.m. in the lobby.

Some food, soft drinks, wine and champagne will be provided. Help make the party more of a success by bringing something to share with your neighbors, such as an appetizer, dessert or other finger food. PLEASE label the back of your dish with your name and unit so that it can be returned to you.

Come visit and enjoy an evening with your neighbors.

Right after the holiday season, there will be a fire safety speaker. Watch for more details.

✂ Clip & Save ✂

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

MECA Doorman's Station.....773-271-1769
MECA Garage Office.....773-271-5193
MECA Management Office ..773-271-1732
MECA Receiving Room773-271-2608

CAPTAIN'S WALK MALL

Dr. Ahmad Bastani.....773-506-9600
Dr. Jack Horbal773-275-0110
First Commercial Bank773-564-4122
Sheridan Hair & Body Studio773-561-6595
Malibu Cleaners773-728-6023
Malibu Convenient Store773-769-5440
H. M. Wagner Realty773-334-0200

CITY SERVICES/UTILITIES

Aging & Disability.....312-744-4016
Alderman Harry Osterman.....773-784-5277
Assessor's Office312-443-7550
AT&T.....800-288-2020
AWB312-951-9600
Chicago Transit Authority.....312-664-7200
Chicago Park District.....312-747-2200
City Hall Inquiry & Info.....312-744-5000
Com Ed800-334-7661
Consumer Services.....312-744-4006
48th Ward Streets & San.....312-744-2130
Edgewater Branch library.....312-744-0718
Police (24th Dist.)312-744-5907
Police/Fire Emergency Only911
Police/Fire Non-emergency.....311
RTA Travel Information312-836-7000
USA Wireless.....800-433-4558

Dear Etta Kitt,



When I came out of my apartment on my way to the elevators, I saw a person waiting for the elevator, leaning against the wall with a foot resting on the wall. As the elevator door opened, I saw the footprint on the wall. I've seen other people in the elevators who are resting a foot on the wall. Once, after the guilty person got off the elevator, I heard another passenger ask, to no one in particular, whether that person puts his foot on the wall in his own apartment. Why do people do this? Don't they know that we all live in communal property?

Signed,
A sad spectator

Dear Spectator:

I think that this is a form of relaxation. I don't think the person is aware that he or she is doing something wrong. It's almost like lying down on one's own sofa without taking off one's shoes. I hope this message gets through so that we all can help our staff to maintain the favorable appearance of our building.

Wanted: Editor

The Dialogue is looking for an editor to succeed our former leader, the late Jack Winans.

Journalistic experience is preferred but not required. The primary criterion is having an interest in Malibu East and a desire to promote the building and its residents, as well as having the time to devote to planning and overseeing the monthly issues. The editor position is unpaid and voluntary.

If you wish to apply, you should leave a note with the management office or doorman, to the attention of the Dialogue, very briefly describing your background and why you're interested in the position.

'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.

Balcony Man by Scott Virzi

THE ADVENTURES OF BALCONY MAN BY SCOTT VIRZI



END.

Let's Care - for Real! Creative ways to support Edgewater neighbors in need

By Tracy Poyser

Winter is (almost) here. Our hearts get warmer around the holidays, while cold winds and frigid temperatures make life for our less fortunate neighbors so much harder. What better time to find creative ways to help! When you do, it's great to start right in our neighborhood. And, by helping our neighbors get the food and clothing they need, we are fostering a stronger, healthier and more stable Edgewater community.

The best (but by no means only) example of a place that provides immediate, meaningful help and needs more support than ever in this tough economy is Edgewater's Care for Real (CfR). Its mission is to provide food, clothing and counseling services to those in need through on-site food distribution, deliveries to the home-bound, a free clothes closet and a case-management program to help clients connect with other services they may need. Recently, they also added a much-needed jobs program (see separate box).

For almost 40 years, this charitable agency has relied on the generosity of neighbors and the efforts of dedicated volunteers to operate. They receive no government funding for ongoing food purchases but are funded through cash, in-kind donations and grants from individuals, the religious community, businesses and foundations. Ninety percent of expenses go to direct client



services – an excellent rating, according to the National Charities Information Bureau, the watchdog of charitable organizations.

Many of our MECA neighbors are familiar with Care for Real but may not know about their change in location from the tight quarters at Broadway and Glenlake to great 4,700-square-foot storefront quarters in the Breakers building at 5339 N. Sheridan, with a great loading dock in back and inside waiting space for up to 40 clients, who no longer have to line up outside in the cold.

Care for Real is helping put Edgewater to work.

At Care for Real, they often talk about how wonderful it would be if the community no longer needed them – if everyone had jobs and the ability to buy all the food they need. They're trying to make this happen with a new program, Putting Edgewater to Work (PEW), a job-matching program that links Care for Real clients with available work. You can help by providing them with information about job openings, whether it's for an hour or two, a day or two, ongoing part-time work or full-time employment. They maintain a list of potential employees for you to draw from. Their clients' skill sets range from accounting to housekeeping, maintenance to administration. All individuals enrolled in CfR's jobs program are interviewed by PEW's volunteer program leaders. There is no cost to you or the clients, and the overhead expenses at Care for Real are being covered by a grant they received for this purpose.

Need a job done? Please call 773-769-6182 and ask for Tom Robb, project director.

Care for Real
Edgewater's Food Pantry

To bring the place to life for you – both in pictures and words – I visited them recently and talked to their new executive director, Doug Fraser, the former chief of staff for ex-Ald. Mary Ann Smith. Doug has extensive knowledge of and experience with Care for Real, having served as executive director of the Edgewater Community Council when CfR was a program of the Edgewater Community Council. He succeeded Tom Robb, who retired in July and is now heading CfR's new jobs program. CfR has an independent nine-person board of directors currently headed by Ingrid Verhulst as president.

Doug tells me that no one in need is turned away. The number of client visits per month is now 4,500, up almost 10 times from 400 or so 10 years ago. The single biggest group consists of people 40-60 years old who've worked their whole life and are now unemployed; many are seeking help for the first time. The second-largest group is children under 18. Clients also include seniors on fixed incomes, refugees trying to make a new start in this country, and families who can't stretch their paychecks to cover all their food costs. They are of every race, religion, age and educational background.

CfR has a staff of five who meet the day-to-day operating needs with dedication, ability and grace under lots of pressure. But, as Doug and administrative manager Irene Bermudez confirm, the lifeblood and essential

(Continued on page 7)

5128 W. Irving Park Rd.
Chicago, Illinois 60641
Business: (773) 283-4600
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- Landlord and/or tenant move in and out cleaning.
- Party-hosts: complete before and after party clean up.
- Construction/rehab dust and debris cleaning and much more.
- We respectfully clean for AIDS, cancer and other ill patients; also the mentally, physically and emotionally challenged, severe depression, elderly, divorced, deceased and much, much more.
- We use our own cleaning supplies at no additional cost.
- Excellent references in your building/neighborhood.

Care for Real

(Continued from page 6)

“engine” of Cfr is its group of at least 65 volunteers a week – including one of our MECA residents, Peter Tekiela, who was in his second day of pitching in when I visited Cfr. He was busy sorting fresh produce for distribution, and what impressed him most was how many people were willing to help. Other volunteers were stacking and sorting canned goods, organizing the clothing area, helping with food distribution, and loading or unloading deliveries.

So, if you want to donate (and I’m sure the same list goes for any local charity, not just Care for Real), here’s what’s needed and wanted most:

- Non-perishable foods – pasta, spaghetti sauces, canned items, sugar, flour, dry pinto beans, soups, rice.
- Warm (gently used) clothing – hats, gloves, scarves, coats, boots and shoes, warm socks.
- Bedding and other household items,

especially blankets, sheets and towels.

- Your time as a volunteer if you’re willing and able!

Last, but not least, consider cash donations (all tax-deductible) and other creative ways to contribute to Cfr or your charity of choice. As artists, my sister Rita Whaley and I donate a percentage of proceeds from gallery shows to Care for Real, including sales from our display in Cfr’s Sheridan Road storefront, and regularly contribute a piece of art to silent auctions that benefit this and other charities. Local restaurants and businesses, including Broadway Cellars and Bark Bark Club, donate back to Cfr through special nights or sales events. You could also organize a food or cash drive at your place of work during the “giving season” or any time – and if you collect a lot, Cfr will pick up

at your location.

You’ll find more information, including operating hours and drop-off times for food and clothing, at www.careforreal.org

Care for Real offices:
5339 N. Sheridan Road
Chicago, IL 60640
Phone: (773) 769-6182
Email: info@careforreal.org

(Photos by Tracy Poyser)



Executive Director Doug Fraser talks to a Cfr supporter



Malibu East’s Peter Tekiela sorts produce at Care for Real

Welcome to the *Captain's Walk* Mall!

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Helen Wagner

773-334-0200

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6033 N. Sheridan Rd. #5 Cell: (773) 297-0205
Chicago, IL 60660 HMWagnerRealty@sbcglobal.net

PHONE: (773) 275-0110

HOURS BY APPOINTMENT

DR. JACK P. HORBAL
DR. KERSTIN E. HORBAL
DENTISTS

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www.horbalds.com

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Dialogue reprints

Back issues of the *Dialogue* (from 2000 to the present) are available on the Malibu East website for viewing or printing.

MalibuEast.org/dialogue



Editorial: City budget impacts condos unfairly

By Neil Warner



The 2012 City of Chicago budget will have a major impact on Malibu East, and some elements of the new budget will take unfair advantage of condo owners.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel's \$6.3 billion budget, which was passed by the Chicago City Council in November by a 50-0 vote, originally proposed the immediate elimination of the condo scavenger rebate. This rebate has provided Malibu East more than \$37,000 in annual revenue - when it was paid. The city last paid Malibu East a rebate in June, but that was for the year 2008. Over the past few years the city has been gradually falling further behind in its payments as it struggles to pay its bills.

The scavenger rebate originated in 1985 during the Council Wars era of city government. It was designed to rebate a portion of the property taxes paid by condo owners for buildings that don't have city garbage pickup. Most recently, the city has paid \$75 per condo unit annually under this program.

Emanuel had proposed eliminating the scavenger rebate as one way of helping to balance his budget. However, an 11th-hour compromise was reached, and credit for that goes to our own 48th Ward Ald. Harry Osterman, 42nd Ward Ald. Brendan Reilly and Budget Committee chairman Ed Burke, according to Association of Sheridan Condominium/Co-op Owners (ASCO) president Sheli Lulkin. Instead of eliminating the rebate immediately, the city will reduce it from \$75 per unit to a maximum of \$50 per unit in 2012. The following three years, through 2015, the rebate will be further reduced to \$25 per unit. The rebate ends in 2016, and no new associations are eligible to collect it.

In addition, a \$1 million allocation was approved to help pay the backlog in rebates owed to associations, which amounts to \$7 million, according to the

Chicago Sun-Times. In our case, that backlog means 2009 to the present.

One element of the compromise that may have escaped notice, as pointed out by Lulkin in an ASCO email, is that, beginning in 2012, the rebate will apply only to owner-occupied units, rather than all condo units. This will further reduce the revenue we receive under the program, depending on how many of our units are not owner-occupied.

On top of the reduction in the scavenger rebate, the new city budget will affect the Malibu East budget in other ways. Most prominently, the water and sewer rates will double by 2015, according to the *Chicago Tribune*, and that is one of MECA's larger expense items each year.

We can certainly be thankful that a compromise was reached and the scavenger rebate was restored, in part. However, the fact remains that because of the upcoming reductions in the amount of the rebate paid to us, we are receiving less in city services for our tax dollar than the non-condominium homeowners in Chicago. If the city wants to eliminate the rebate, perhaps it should begin collecting our garbage, as it does with other city homeowners,

which would save us more than \$50,000 in annual expenses.

If you agree that we are being shortchanged, you can contact Ald. Osterman and/or Mayor Emanuel and let them know your feelings. If you do, also be sure to thank Osterman for salvaging a portion of the rebate. You can reach Alderman Osterman at 773-784-5277 or email him at Harry@48thward.org. The mayor's office can be contacted by calling 311.

*Our condolences to the
family and friends of
Grace Cabrera Maglunog*



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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