

# Malibu East Dialogue

March 2012

Your Communication and Information Resource

## Fire Dept. speaker sheds light on fire safety

By Kim O'Neal

Officer Jeffrey Chavers, from the Chicago Fire Department's public safety education unit, led a group of more than 60 attendees in a fire safety meeting Feb. 11 in the Windjammer Room, explaining what to do in case of fire, and what not to do.



The No. 1 thing that Officer Chavers kept repeating is, "STAY IN YOUR APARTMENT" if the fire is not in your unit; this is the safest place you can be. Malibu East and other high-rise buildings are constructed with fire-resistant materials, making them among the safest types of buildings in the event of a fire. Even if the fire is in the apartment next to you or across the hall, the safest place to be is in your apartment.

Sandy Chaet helped coordinate the meeting, with attendees from East Point, Malibu and Malibu East. Ald. Harry Osterman wanted to make sure that all the high-rises on Sheridan Road have a fire safety meeting to understand what to do in case of fire, and

Jerry Goodman from the alderman's office helped arrange the informational session.

Important facts about high-rise fires:

- National statistics indicate that less than one percent of fire-related deaths occur in a high-rise building.
- 59% of all residential high-rise fires originate in the kitchen.
- 94% of high-rise fires are confined to the unit of origin.
- High-rise fires are almost always contained to a single room or one apartment.
- Being prepared and taking proper precautions in a fire emergency can help save your life.
- Placing a damp towel at the base of your entry doors will help to prevent smoke from coming in.
- Exterior doors should have a self-closer to the point of latching, so that the door will close (but not lock) behind you if your unit on fire.

If the fire is in your unit, remain calm, unlock your door (or the fire department will use an ax), get out of the unit, close your doors to the building hallway to contain the fire, get to safety, and call 911 and then the doorman. Do not leave your outer doors open for pets or any other reason; this will cause the fire to spread.

that the person in the apartment with the fire left their front door propped open with a rug so their animal could get out. If you have a pet, take your pet with you. The smoke from the fire spread to the hallway, there was no doorman on staff to recall the elevators to the lobby, and the woman lived on the same floor as the fire. When the elevator doors opened on that floor, the smoke overcame her.



Our apartment outer doors are fire-rated. The only thing that will burn is the contents of our unit if we close our outer doors behind us when the fire is in our unit.

The fire department came up with an acronym to use in case of a fire: **CALM**.

- **C** - Call 911 first - don't assume someone else did.
- **A** - Alert your building management/security/doorman.
- **L** - Listen for instructions from fire officials, or from the 911 operator, as they will provide specific instructions on what you need to do to stay safe.
- **M** - Move to safety, or evacuate ONLY if you are in immediate danger from a fire in your unit.

If your unit begins to fill with smoke, or conditions worsen for you in your unit, call 911 immediately; they will instruct you on what to do and send firemen to your unit to assist. Do not go to the stairwell if the fire is not in your unit. The reason so many died in the

### Malibu East events and meetings

#### Dialogue staff meeting

Saturday, March 10

10:00 a.m. - Community Room

#### Thursday afternoon discussion

Thursday, March 15

2:00 p.m. - Community Room

(every 3rd Thursday of the month)

#### Board of Directors meeting

Tuesday, March 27

7:30 p.m. - Windjammer Room

#### Easter egg hunt

Saturday, April 7

10:00 a.m. - Windjammer Room

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



Officer Chavers said one reason a woman died in a recent high-rise fire is

(Photos by Tracy Poyser)

(Continued on page 8)



# Board meeting notes

By Neil Warner

Please keep in mind that the meeting notes are not the official record of the Malibu East Condominium 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, Feb. 28, 2012**

Attendance: 10 board members, 2 management representatives and 10 residents  
 Excused: Tom Vaughan, Eleida Gomez  
 Presiding: President Marcel Molins

Pending: 0  
 Total: 3

**Waiting lists**  
 Single self-park: 0  
 Tandem self-park: 0  
 Second car: 0

**Monthly parkers**  
 Single: 144  
 Tandem: 8  
 Valet: 269  
 Preferred: 1  
 Tandem/valet: 4  
Engineer: NC  
 Total: 426

**Garage capacity**  
 Single 152  
 Tandem: 40  
 Valet stalls: 298  
 Valet aisles 20  
Motorcycles: 3  
 Total: 513  
 (Under capacity) 87

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW PROPERTY MANAGER**

Angela Valentine, CMCA

**REVISIONS TO AGENDA**

- 1) "Garage painting" added to Items Not Requiring Immediate Board Action.
- 2) "Other items to finish garage" added to Items Not Requiring Immediate Board Action.
- 3) "Boat dock rehab" added to Items Not Requiring Immediate Board Action.

**TREASURER'S REPORT - Neil Warner**

- 1) **Financial statement**  
 Balance on hand, cash and reserves \$2,602,901.25
- 2) **Delinquencies**  
 Approx. \$277,863
- 3) **Audit**  
 Our auditor has begun working on the audit of our 2011 financials.

- Changes**  
 New monthlies: 3  
 Cancellations: 2  
 Upgrades 5
- 3) **Sports & Entertainment - Neil Warner**  
 A new yoga class typically begins the first Monday of each month, at 7 p.m. in the Windjammer Room. A fee is charged.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- 1) **Social - Sandy Chaet**  
 Exercise/belly dance class begins new series March 15, 7-8 p.m. each Thursday for five weeks. Cost: \$50. Instructor: Dianne Hodges. If you're thinking about joining and would like to see what the class is like, come at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 8. Easter egg hunt at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 7 in Windjammer Room for children under 10; each child must be accompanied by an adult.

- 4) **Cable - Neil Warner**  
 DirecTV has increased its programming rates but may be willing to grandfather previous prices with a contract extension. A special Board subcommittee has been appointed to investigate this proposal.

- 2) **Garage - Martina Molins**  
 Board continues to study the possible elimination of tandem parking, which would leave only valet parking and self-parking. **Standard Parking report as of Jan. 31 - Alex Diakoumis, Mgr.**

**MANAGEMENT REPORT - Angela Valentine**

**Items requiring immediate board action**

- 1) **None**
- Items requiring future board action**
- 1) **Laundry contract**  
 Special committee is hoping to have quotes for new laundry equipment at next Board meeting. Until a new contract is signed, the current contract will continue on a month-to-month basis.

**Items not requiring board action**

- 1) **Garage painting**

Approved motion to paint garage columns in safety orange, per inspection of sample column by Board.

- 2) **Other items to finish garage**  
 Membranes on second and third floors of garage are being reapplied because previous membranes are out of warranty.
- 3) **Boat dock rehab**  
 Project is progressing.

**RATIFICATION OF ACTION TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION**

- 1) **None**

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

**✂ Clip & Save ✂**

**IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

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

**CAPTAIN'S WALK MALL**

Dr. Ahmad Bastani..... 773-506-9600  
 Dr. Jack Horbal ..... 773-275-0110  
 First Commercial Bank ..... 773-564-4122  
 Sheridan Hair & Body Studio 773-561-6595  
 Malibu Cleaners ..... 773-728-6023  
 Malibu Convenient Store ..... 773-769-5440  
 H. M. Wagner Realty ..... 773-334-0200

**CITY SERVICES/UTILITIES**

Aging & Disability..... 312-744-4016  
 Alderman Harry Osterman.... 773-784-5277  
 Assessor's Office ..... 312-443-7550  
 AT&T. .... 800-288-2020  
 AWB..... 312-951-9600  
 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  
 Edgewater Branch library .... 312-744-0718  
 Police (24th Dist.) ..... 312-744-5907  
 Police/Fire Emergency Only ..... 911  
 Police/Fire Non-emergency ..... 311  
 RTA Travel Information ..... 312-836-7000  
 USA Wireless ..... 800-433-4558

**Claims**  
 Approved: 0  
 Denied: 3

## Carl Stahlheber: new voice on Board

By Tracy Poyser

Every year, we elect or re-elect a group of our fellow residents to represent us on our Board of Directors, but we often don't really get to know them beyond the brief statement they have written on their Board application or what they have said at the Meet the Candidates panel before the election, if you attended. We hope this interview with new Board member Carl Stahlheber – and future Board member profiles in the Dialogue – will give you an up-close and personal look!

Carl moved into Malibu East two years ago, in March 2010, with Romel, his partner of 17 years. He has lived in Chicago for most of his life, speaks fluent Spanish, is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago and is a long-term professional at the U.S. Department of Labor involved in monitoring and ensuring program and financial compliance for employment and training programs for the State of Minnesota. In his role there, he sees himself not as an “enforcer,” but as an advocate for his state and its residents who are in need of employment services.

He and Romel moved to Malibu East from a single-family home. This is his first experience as a condo dweller, although he lived in a gated community in Miami and served as a director and later secretary for that association. He was drawn to becoming involved with the Board as a way to participate in taking care of his property and find a personal sense of place and belonging.

Now that he's been “on board the Board” for four months, I wondered how he relates his work responsibilities to his condo Board membership. He sees that as an easy fit: As a Board member, his clients are his fellow Malibu East residents, whose concerns and desires need to be balanced with what is possible in terms of funding. That's why he opted to chair Malibu East's Long-Range Planning Committee and be vice-chair of the Communications Committee. He realizes that any time he votes at a Board meeting on an Issue, that vote

affects his own situation as an owner.

So, what's it like to be “the new kid on the board”? Carl likes the easy camaraderie with his fellow Board members and that it's possible to present new ways of thinking. As with any group of volunteers, he understands each person has his or her own issues and priorities, and that letting each other be heard is the first step to consensus. He practices that skill in his professional life and believes it serves him well on our Board.

One of Carl's biggest surprises as a new Board member was to realize how much work it takes to run a building of this size in terms of staffing, volunteer commitment and, above all, financial needs. He also admits that, unlike with single-home ownership where he was able to make spur-of-the-moment decisions, having to balance his ideas for Malibu East with what is fiscally responsible can be frustrating, with decision-making processes taking longer.



Carl Stahlheber (photo by Tracy Poyser)

Here's what Carl said about his personal goals for communications and long-range planning: On top of his list is the need to bring our medium of communications into the 21st century. He'd like to revamp our website to make it interactive and more informative so that our manager and Board can communicate information to residents; residents can see and schedule times for the service elevator or Windjammer Room and even communicate with each other; the Receiving Room staff can text or email residents that they have deliveries; potential buyers can download and upload all the required documents in order to comply with the admission requirements, and so much more. The possibilities are endless, and

Carl wants to get started with at least the basics as soon as possible. Another big priority is to tackle is how Malibu East uses energy going into the future. We need to start thinking about serious ways to reduce water and electricity usage if we want to see our assessments stabilize – otherwise, we will be held captive by the utility companies. That means looking 5-10 years out in terms of how to reduce electricity and water usage. One idea is finding out if we can put solar panels on our roof and, if so, whether there are grants Malibu East could access to finance these and other energy-saving or green initiatives, given that any such investment involves a close look at the pay-back period for the association. He'd also like to find out about new technologies to remedy the energy loss caused by negative building pressure in Malibu East.

What does Carl miss? Not having more people at Board meetings (it gets lonely at the head table); having to shovel his own snow (just kidding); his dog, who enjoyed riding the service elevator with him; and volunteers for his committees – especially the Web communications area.

Now that you know what Carl looks like and wants to do as a Board member, don't hesitate to talk to him when you see him in the elevator or Laundry Room. And, if you have a great idea relating to his areas of interest or want to join one of his committees, do let him know! There are mailboxes for all Board members in the luggage cart room next to the doorman station.

### 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



## 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](http://tinyurl.com/27YYYN)

#### EDGEWATER BRANCH LIBRARY

**Library building is closed during construction. 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](http://tinyurl.com/5L55TL)

#### EDGEWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**"Edgewater Grocery Stores 1886-today"** (thru March 25th)

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

[www.EdgewaterHistory.org](http://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](http://whitecranewellness.org)

### THEATER / SHOWINGS

#### CITY LIT THEATRE COMPANY

**"We Have Always Lived in the Castle"**

When an estranged relative comes to live with these sisters, there may be murder.

Thru Apr. 1  
1020 W. Bryn Mawr  
773-293-3682  
[citylit.org](http://citylit.org)

#### LIFELINE THEATRE

**"Hunger"**

During the 900-day Nazi siege of Leningrad, a Russian botanist is charged with protecting valuable seeds.

Thru Mar. 25  
6912 N. Glenwood  
773-761-4477  
[lifelinetheatre.com](http://lifelinetheatre.com)

#### PEGASUS PLAYERS THEATRE

**"Heat Wave"**

In 1995, more people died in Chicago (739) than the combined deaths in Hurricane Katrina. This play exposes it and answers some questions about it.

Thru Apr. 6  
1145 W. Wilson  
773-878-9761  
[pegasusplayers.org](http://pegasusplayers.org)

#### RAVEN THEATRE

**"Dating Walter Dante"**

A dark and delicious comedy about why a woman is dating a man whose previous two marriages had dangerous endings.

Thru Mar. 24  
6157 N. Clark  
773-338-2177  
[raventheatre.com](http://raventheatre.com)

## New property manager

Malibu East hired Angela Valentine as its new property manager, effective Feb. 20.

Ms. Valentine previously worked for Vanguard Community Management as a community manager, managing multiple condominium associations in the suburbs as an off-site manager. She has more than 30 years' experience in the property management field and is a certified manager of community associations.

Stop by the office to introduce yourself and meet Ms. Valentine.

## Easter Egg Hunt

For children under 10  
years of age

All children must be  
accompanied by an adult

Saturday, April 7, 2012

10:00 a.m. Meet in the Community Room on the 4th floor.  
10:15 a.m. Hunt for Easter Eggs begins in the Windjammer Room.  
Bring a basket or bag to hold the eggs.

Refreshments will be served

Hosted by the MECA Social Committee

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*Sandy Chaet*  
*"A personal touch"*



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773-334-0993 (direct)

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[www.ChestnutCleaning.com](http://www.ChestnutCleaning.com)

Dear Etta Kitt,

One of my neighbors dumps his trash straight from his garbage and trash can directly into the garbage chute without using bags. I know that this is a bad thing to do but am not sure just what the effect is on our trash chute and how to approach my neighbor. I don't want to be the "condo police." Also, he has started dumping unwrapped shredded paper.



Signed, Just a citizen

'Town Crier' announcements

by Rodica Ilc



We welcome all new residents to our building, including:

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

Balcony Man by Scott Virzi

Dear Citizen,

Thank you for being a good "condo citizen" and bringing this to our attention. Unless this neighbor is a good friend and you feel comfortable in criticizing him, I would suggest that you contact management and have them post a letter above the trash chute.

The effect of dumping "raw" trash into the chute is twofold.

First, it allows wet garbage to adhere to the sides of the chute where it impedes the smooth flow of trash and eventually hardens and breaks up other bags, multiplying the problem.

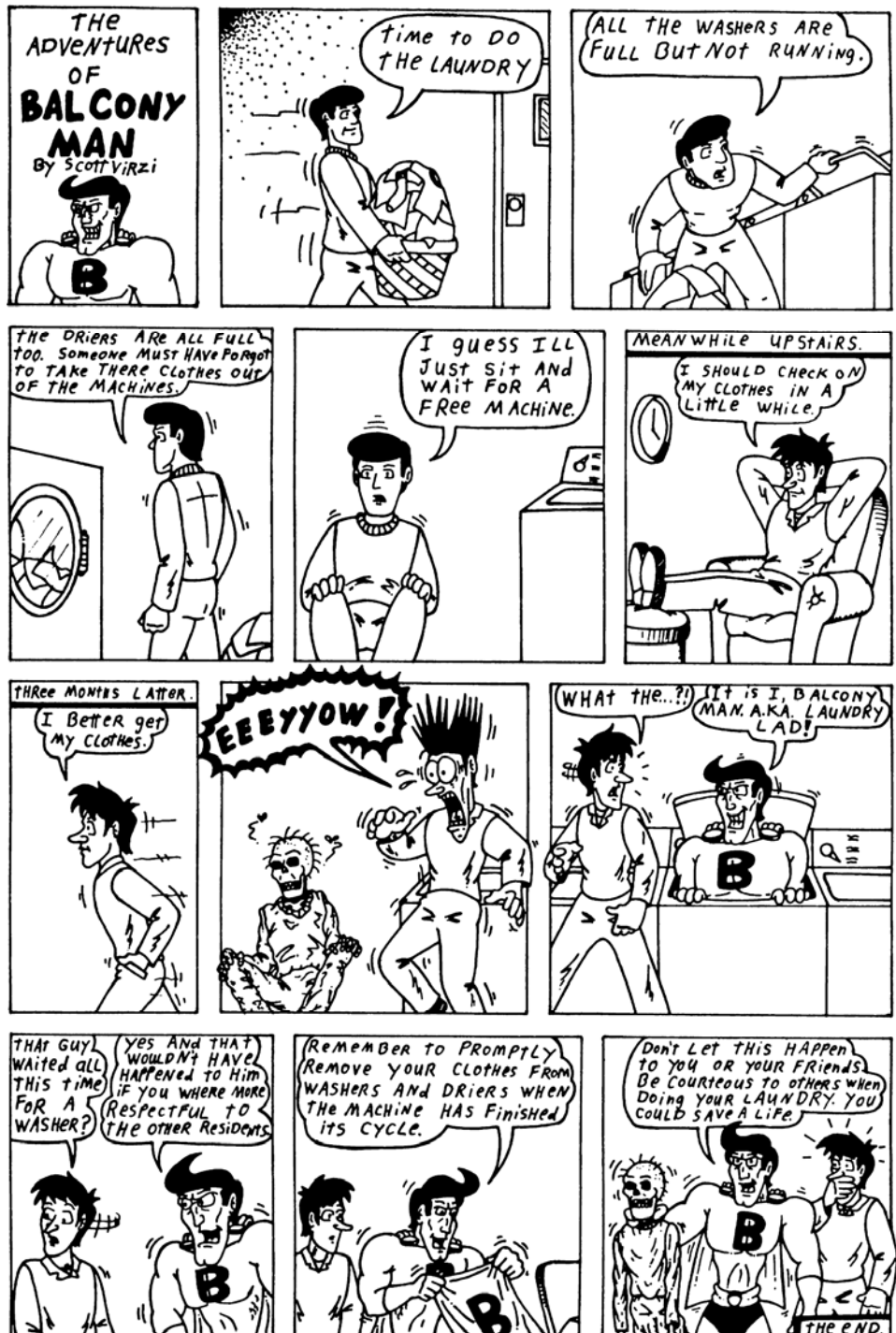
Secondly, the wet, raw garbage adhering to the sides of the chute putrefies and gives off a foul odor. When this becomes noticeable (as it soon does), the chute has to be flushed out and sanitized at the expense of all owners.

If you know your neighbor well enough, just let them know that you don't want your floor smelling like a pig farm.

The result of dumping unwrapped shredded paper goes far beyond any mess on the immediate floor. Due to strong natural updrafts in the building, the shredded paper will be blown up and out of the chute doors into the hallways of multiple floors.

All garbage should be double-bagged before it is put down the chute.

And be a good citizen and take your rinsed-out bottles, cans and plastic containers to the bulk room and place them in the containers that have been provided for recycling. Also, please take paper and cardboard to the room for recycling.



## Bed bugs

By Sheli Lulkin, ASCO President

After nearly five decades of being off the radar, the bed bugs are back. Some scientists blame their resurgence on the banning of DDT. Unfortunately for us, they are hardy travelers and love to hitchhike.



New York went through a terrible siege a couple of years ago and feels it has the problem under control; only the borough of Queens showed an increase in reports this year. Chicago, on the other hand, has moved up from the No. 5 city in the country to No. 4. Government is starting to move on the issue. The City of Chicago has now posted a page on its website at:

[www.cityofchicago.org/content/dam/city/depts/bacp/bedbugs/bedbugsfactsheet.pdf](http://www.cityofchicago.org/content/dam/city/depts/bacp/bedbugs/bedbugsfactsheet.pdf)

The State of Illinois, at the behest of Sen. Heather Steans, formed a bed bug task force, which has already reported. Ald. Harry Osterman has a registered nurse on his staff, Ginger Williams, who has been assigned the responsibility of working with residents and buildings with bed bug problems.

Because of several incidents of bed bug infestations in our area, ASCO, the Association of Sheridan Road Condo/Co-op Owners, has taken the lead in working on the issue. A Feb. 16 workshop included a presentation on the legal aspects of fighting bed bugs, a demonstration by AEGIS BBDS of its dog detective, a power point presentation on prevention and a description of the detection program at Park Tower Condominium, 5415 N. Sheridan Road.

### Getting down to basics

Bed bugs don't come in all sizes. They are ugly but the size of a grain of rice. Bed bug eggs are transparent. Once the critter hatches, it must suck your blood within 48 hours or it dies. That is why momma likes to lay her eggs near a food source (your bed). Bed bugs move around mostly at night.

Once the baby sucks your blood, it turns brown. It can live up to two years without eating again, but if food is available, it will eat again. Unlike mosquitos, the bites are in a line or

cluster.

Scientists are beginning to study bed bugs because of their resurgence. Some believe that the carbon dioxide you exhale guides them to your body.

Bed bugs have black feces. It is these feces that you are more likely to see than the bugs themselves, unless you have a terrible infestation. Black spots on your mattress are a good indication. If you have them, notify management immediately so that the association's exterminator can be called. Treatment is complex and expensive; it's not something that residents should attempt to resolve by themselves. Also, if the resident has a medical problem or small children, they can consult with management and the exterminator about potential side effects of the treatment.

To the best of our knowledge, bed bugs do not carry disease. Also, the older you are, the less likely you are to react to the bites. But bites swell, they are ugly, and they itch. Scratching can lead to an infection. Insecticides can harm children and adults with medical problems. They have been shown to cause asthma in children under five.

### Bed bug prevention programs

The cheapest and healthiest way to deal with bed bugs is to prevent infestation. Cooperation and alertness are required.

- The association should adopt a prevention program including bed bug-sniffing dogs. Park Tower reported that it has built into its move-in and move-out fees an inspection by dogs. The purpose of a move-out inspection is to protect the association legally, so that the new residents cannot say the unit was infected when they moved in.
- Pull your bed away from the wall so bed bugs cannot come and go from the bed. Inspect your mattress every

time you make your bed. Change sheets at least once a week and wash them in hot water. It is the heat that kills the bugs, not the water. If you have pictures on the wall above the bed, take them down every once in a while and check the back.

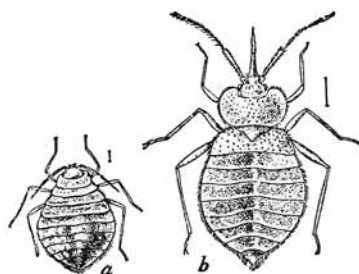
- When you bathe, check your body for bites.
- If you find bugs, put them into a zip-lock bag, seal it and bring it to the Management Office so that the exterminator can see them.

### Travel techniques

- Stock up on zip-lock bags. Pack your clothes and other items in them. Bring your dirty clothes home in them.
- When you arrive at your hotel, cruise ship, etc., put your suitcase in the bathroom or in the bathtub itself.
- Strip the bed and examine it for feces spots and/or bugs. If you find them, ask for a different room, preferably not in the same tier as bed bugs like to go up and down. Repeat the routine.
- Try not to hang clothes in the closet. The bathroom is your safest place because bed bugs cannot climb up smooth ceramic or porcelain.
- When you pack to leave, put everything in a zip-lock bag.
- When you get home, unpack in front of the washing machine and put everything into the machine. Throw away the bags. If you have clothes that you did not wear, put them in the dryer for 20 minutes.
- Put your suitcase in the tub. Use a steamer or hair dryer all over the inside. Leave the suitcase in the tub overnight.
- The same is true for backpacks if you ride public transportation. Don't throw your tote bag, backpack or coat on your bed.

### Legislation

ASCO has made recommendations to both the alderman and the state regarding legislation. These include the removal of infested materials and standards for companies that rent hospital beds.



## Red Line modernization plans progressing

By Tracy Poyser

On Feb. 7, the CTA hosted an open house at the Broadway Armory to present an update on the Red & Purple Modernization Project. Instead of a formal presentation, the update featured easy-to-read, large-size poster boards outlining current and future plans, with at least a dozen CTA representatives on hand to get feedback from Edgewater residents and answer questions. Also on hand were a number of 48th Ward officials, including Ald. Harry Osterman, who has made this project a top priority, especially in light of related safety and crime prevention concerns.

Conversations about the modernization of the Red Line began a few years ago due to the disrepair of the line and adjoining stations and became more focused late last year. Key proposal changes include the removal of an option of a proposed underground subway and a new option of moderniz-



ing the Red Line stations without station closures. Earlier options had considered closure of the Thorndale and Jarvis stations, which many residents and Osterman are opposing vigorously.

A few days after the meeting, the CTA approved a contract that will result in a much-needed short-term improvement project at five stations within our community: Lawrence, Argyle, Berwyn, Thorndale and Granville. Bryn Mawr is not included in this project because a larger-scale renovation of this station is already in the planning stages. Osterman and the CTA will host a meeting at 6:30 p.m. March 21 (location TBA) to discuss features of the 2012 improve-



ment project and service delays that will result from it. Project work will include viaduct repairs, platform repairs or replacement, station waterproofing, lighting improvements, renovated storefronts and new station-house finishes.

"I am very supportive of the Red Line modernization project, particularly because it leads to updated stations that will better serve our community," commented Osterman in a recent e-letter. "I will continue to support this modernization effort, without the closing and consolidation of any stations. Each of our stations has significant ridership numbers; it is critical to keep these stations open to continue to grow economic development opportunities and to serve our residents, schools and businesses," he concludes.

If you are interested in transportation issues affecting our community, consider joining the Transportation Committee as part of the 48th Ward Master Plan. You'll find more details and updates at: [48thward.org/masterplan](http://48thward.org/masterplan)

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PHONE: (773) 275-0110

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## Fire safety meeting

(Continued from page 1)

fire at a downtown office building several years ago is that smoke filled the stairwell as people were rushing to leave, and the people died of smoke inhalation. The safest place for you to be is in your unit when the fire is not in your unit.

Officer Chavers provided the following safety tips:

- Make sure you have working smoke detectors and, if you have a self-cleaning oven, a carbon monoxide detector as well, because a self-cleaning oven emits carbon monoxide when the self-cleaning cycle is activated.
- Know the location of all stairwells.
- Check stairwells for heat or smoke conditions before you enter them, if you must.
- Keep a spare key and flashlight in your nightstand or near your bed, as fires usually cause the electricity to go off.
- Get an **ABC**-rated, handheld fire extinguisher for your kitchen, in a place where it is easily accessible in case of a kitchen fire, the No. 1 originating site of high-rise fires. **ABC**-rated fire extinguishers put out: **A** – ordinary combustibles like paper and clothing; **B** – flammable liquids like oil and cleaning products; and **C** – electrical fires.
- If you have an electrical fire, hit the electric breaker and turn off your power.
- Fire truck ladders will only reach to the sixth or seventh floor, so don't go to your balcony; stay in your unit.
- Use surge protectors for any outlets that have any type of load, especially for electronic equipment. Your surge protectors should be rated at 25,000 joules or more.
- Notify the doorman that there is a fire, so he can recall the elevators to the first floor to keep residents from going to the fire. Otherwise, the elevators have a tendency to go to the floor that has the fire.
- Do not use the elevators in the event of a fire.
- Do not go to the roof. There is no way out from there, and helicopters

will not come to save you.

- Do not go on your balcony; there is no way out from there.
- Don't break windows; it gives fire the oxygen it needs to spread.
- Fire extinguisher information:
- They have a 10-year shelf life.
- You can recycle your extinguishers at any fire station.
- Mount your fire extinguishers 36 inches from the floor for easier access.
- Each extinguisher is different, so read the instructions for proper use.
- Make sure your back is always to an exit when using a fire extinguisher.
- Acronym for using fire extinguishers – **PASS**:  
**P** – Pull pin.  
**A** – Aim at the base of the fire.  
**S** – Squeeze the trigger.  
**S** – Stand back 6-10 feet from the fire source; the extinguisher will shoot this far.

You can buy an extinguisher for less than \$20. Remember to get one that's **ABC**-rated.

For any questions on fire safety, you can contact the Chicago Fire Department public education unit at 1010 S. Clinton St., Chicago, IL 60607, or call 312-747-6691.

## Share your ideas, customs

The *Dialogue* is interested in your ideas. We want to hear what you think about living at Malibu East or what activities you would enjoy engaging in if they were available to you.

We are particularly interested in customs that you may have brought here from another country and which may be unfamiliar to many of our residents, such as how you celebrate a given holiday or how a wedding is celebrated in your native culture.

With your new ideas, input and engagement, we can help make the *Dialogue* more relevant to our lives at Malibu East. We may choose to publish your idea and see if it interests others, or we may forward it to the proper Board committee for possible implementation.

Whenever you have an idea, a suggestion, an article you have written or an idea for an article that you'd like to contribute to, you can leave it with the doorman or the Management Office, marked to the attention to the *Dialogue* editor.

### The Dialogue

The Malibu East Condominium *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 Malibu East Condominium *Dialogue* staff and contributors are their personal views and do not necessarily represent the views of Malibu East Condominium or its Board of Directors and management.

Letters to the Malibu East Condominium *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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