

Malibu East Dialogue

August 2013

Your Communication and Information Resource

The night shift: Mystery of elves unveiled

By Tracy Poyser

Even on dark and stormy nights after 10:30 p.m., our building seems pretty quiet – but there's more going on than you realize! Most of us are likely watching late-night TV, perhaps reading a bit, and resting up for work or a weekend day ahead. Maybe we drop off some recyclables in our floor's bulk garbage room, which is likely piled full with newspapers, shipping boxes and other debris, not thinking about who gets it magically clean and empty by morning. Must have been elves at work, right?



Those unseen elves are two amazing brothers, Froylan and Manuel Sanchez, who have been working Malibu East's 10:30 p.m.-7 a.m. maintenance shift for more than 15 and 10 years, respectively. I thought it was time to get to know them a bit better and find out what they do. So, I had the pleasure of catching up with them late one Tuesday in July as they started their long night of work. They're on duty five nights a

week: Froylan from Tuesday to Saturday, and Manuel from Sunday to Thursday. That way, they work together on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and alone two nights each.

The Sanchez brothers grew up in Mexico City in a large family with 13 children – seven girls and six boys. Froylan, the older of the two, has lived in Chicago for 28 years, together with his wife and four (almost grown) children. Manuel, the youngest of the siblings, moved here 15 years ago. His wife and three young kids still live in Mexico City, with visits back and forth a couple of times a year. They both speak of their family with great love and affection.



Froylan Sanchez

Manuel Sanchez

You may remember that Froylan had doorman duty for a while, but after having left Malibu East for a construction job, he not only was happy to return when he learned about an opening, but actually prefers the maintenance night shift. So, when his brother Manuel wanted a change from a painting job at the Seneca Hotel 10 years ago, maintenance chief Lou Colletti and assistant Mike Rostescu were happy to have him sign on to the night shift.

Given the sheer amount of work and diligence required to do their jobs properly, their genuine joy and pride in what they do is amazing. Cleaning and mopping the employee lunchroom, lobby and elevator bank area and

emptying the trash cans there seem relatively easy – when the weather is decent, that is. In winter, removing snow in the portico and entrance driveway is added to the night-shift work. The marble in the elevator gets polished until it's clean and shiny. Our lobby floor needs to be stripped once a year, and other tasks may get assigned by management as needed.

The most difficult part of the night shift is working on our 42 trash/recycling rooms: separating the recyclables from the non-recyclable trash and carrying them into the freight elevator and then to the lower level for pickup by the waste hauler, cleaning the trash room floors and bins, and checking the garbage chute rooms. That takes at least two hours – even longer when there have been many move-ins and/or move-outs.

I asked them about strange or unusual items they have found in our trash rooms. Well, there was that very large sofa cut in half so it would fit in there and into the freight elevator. And that pile of adult magazines should have been put in a dark trash bag – they wouldn't have wanted kids to find those. Much nicer was a small wooden church very lovingly built – unlike those pizza or other carryout containers with half-eaten food still stuck in them. Those items take extra time to bag and dispose of down the regular garbage chute.

Among the dead plants in large containers with all the dirt still in them, and huge rolls of old carpeting, they often find some perfectly nice household items that people don't want anymore. Those get put in the bulk trash bins near the loading dock, and Manuel hopes someone might still have a use for them.

Froylan takes particular pride in showing me what needs to be done on

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Malibu East events and meetings

Dialogue staff meeting

Wednesday, Aug 7

8:00 p.m. - Community Room

Ice cream social

Sunday, Aug 18

1:30 p.m. - Windjammer Room/deck

White elephant sale

Saturday, Aug 24

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. - Captain's Walk

Board meeting

Tuesday, Aug 27

7:30 p.m. - Windjammer Room

Meet the Candidates Night

Wednesday, Aug 28

7:30 p.m. - Windjammer Room

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



Board meeting notes

By Neil Warner

Tuesday, July 23, 2013

Attendance: Eleven Board members, two management representatives and eight residents

Excused: Sandy Chaet

Presiding: President Marcel Molins

REVISIONS TO AGENDA

1) None

TREASURER'S REPORT – Neil Warner

1) Financial statement

Balance on hand, cash and reserves
\$3,024,015.42

2) Delinquencies

Approx. \$338,000

3) Audit

Several issues must be resolved prior to the auditor issuing a first draft of the 2012 audit.

PURCHASE OF UNIT 23L AND SALE OF UNIT 41K

1) The Board voted unanimously to exercise its right of first refusal on the purchase of unit 23L at a price of \$107,120, plus or minus prorations, in accordance with the authorization provided by the owners at the special meeting immediately preceding this Board meeting.

2) The Board voted to approve the sale of the association-owned unit 41K at a price of \$202,000, in accordance with the authorization provided by the owners at the special meeting immediately preceding this Board meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1) Social – Neil Warner

An ice cream social will be held Aug. 18 in the Windjammer Room. A white elephant sale is scheduled for Aug. 24 in the Captain's Walk mall; spaces must be reserved by Aug. 15. A new exercise/belly dance class will begin Thursday, Aug. 8 from 7 to 8 p.m.; five classes cost \$50. Zumba class continues on Sunday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Racquetball Court; participation is free. There will be no class on Sept. 1.

2) Aesthetics & Building Maintenance – Maria Damp

The committee, in conjunction with the Long-Range Planning Committee, is working on a number of projects, including the Laundry Room renovation, upgrading the aesthetics of the swimming pool enclosure, upgrading the garage waiting room, elevator improvements, lobby renovation and more.

3) Public & Community Affairs – Neil Warner

Edge Fest will be held on Broadway between Thorndale and Ardmore on Aug. 3-4. An ordinance to approve Loyola University's request to close the 6300 block of North Kenmore to vehicular traffic will likely be approved by the City Council, with some concessions being made to the neighborhood. The water main work on Sheridan Road between Thorndale and Devon has been moved up to begin July 31, to be followed by resurfacing and curb repairs on Sheridan Road from Hollywood to Devon. The state fire marshal has

proposed new rules that would require the installation of fire sprinklers in common areas and residential units of high-rise buildings such as ours. (See "New business" below.) The Chicago City Council Committee on Zoning, Landmarks and Building Standards has proposed an ordinance that would require high-rises to monitor its energy usage and that of each individual residential unit in an effort to create a citywide "benchmark" for energy usage. Twelve aldermen, including 48th Ward Ald. Harry Osterman, were successful in getting the proposed ordinance deferred until the Sept. 11 City Council meeting, when it will again be considered. Details are available in the Management Office. (See article, page 7)

4) Garage – Martina Molins Standard Parking report as of July 18 – Ali Saeed, Mgr.

Approved:	1
Denied:	0
Pending:	0
Total:	1

Waiting lists

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

Monthly parkers

Single:	158
Tandem:	14
Valet:	262
Preferred:	1
Motorcycle:	1
Engineer:	NC
Total:	436

Garage capacity

Single	160
Tandem:	42
Valet stalls:	284
Valet aisles	20
Motorcycles:	3
Total:	509

(Under capacity)

Changes

New monthlies:	3
Cancellations:	9
Upgrades	3
Downgrades	0

5) Sports & Entertainment – Neil Warner

A new yoga class will begin Aug. 5. Beginners are welcome.

6) Long-Range Planning – Carl Stahlheber

See Aesthetics & Building Maintenance Committee above.

MANAGEMENT REPORT – Violette

Deschamps

Items requiring immediate Board action

1) Golf final payments

The Board approved final payments to Golf Construction for garage repairs and boat dock repairs.

2) Life safety construction administration

Modification of the previous contract was accepted, subject to clarification of terms.

3) Balcony/façade project

The Board approved our engineering firm's proposal for construction administration services related to the 2013 balcony/façade project.

4) 22.1 disclosure form

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.

The Board approved an updated form, which is distributed to prospective unit buyers.

Old business

1) Voice communication traveling cables

A selected vendor will test the operation of a speaker on elevator No. 1 using an existing cable.

2) Façade report

The Board reviewed the engineering firm's report on the 2013 façade/balcony maintenance.

3) Voice communication system

The work in the stairwells is under way. The construction work on the residential floors will begin in late summer or early fall.

4) Laundry Room auxiliary work

New electrical circuit breaker panels will be installed behind the back wall of the Laundry Room. Increased air intake capabilities for operating the dryers and the repair of the drainage pipes are also being investigated.

5) Captain's Walk plumbing investigation

An additional leak has been discovered in a sewer pipe. Management is investigating the possibility of sealing the leak with a plastic liner.

6) Association-owned units – repair protocol

Still being developed.

7) Garage lighting

New lighting proposals are under consideration.

8) Restaurant project

Nothing new.

9) Boat dock stairwell project

A vendor has been chosen to provide architectural services in conjunction with the building of a staircase from the Captain's Walk to the boat dock, under the terms of a motion approved at the June Board meeting.

10) In-house TV channel

Tabled.

New business

1) Malibu Condominium requests

The directors of Malibu and Malibu East will continue to work together on previously identified issues.

2) Fire sprinkler mandate

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has proposed new life safety rules that would pre-empt Chicago's home-rule authority over such matters. Among the OSFM's proposals are requirements to install sprinklers in common areas and residential units of any building containing 11 units or more. With cost estimates from two other Sheridan Road high-rises ranging from \$30,000 to \$50,000 per unit to retrofit a building such as ours with sprinklers, as well as the prospect of years of construction to accomplish the retrofitting, the Board of Directors recommends that owners and residents oppose the OSFM's proposal. Because the proposed rules are going through the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) rather than through the Illinois Legislature's law-making process, eight of the 12 JCAR members must vote

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What's happening around the building

By Violette Deschamps, Malibu East Manager

Assessments are due the first of the month. The Management Office cannot accept assessment payments.

Bullying: It is unfortunate to realize that we do have a few cases of bullying at Malibu East. We may be able to assist you if one of our cameras recorded the event. Our best advice to any victim of bullying is to call the police and make a complaint if you feel it's warranted. You should forward to management, in writing, a description of the incident, along with the description of the person who bullied you.

Life safety project: Installation of a voice communication system is in progress in the stairwells. The work on the residential floors will be initiated later this summer or early fall.

Façade and balcony maintenance: Golf Construction is working on the D and K tiers. You may contact management to verify the location of the crew and whether you can use your air conditioner and/or balcony. We will do our best to provide you with guidance. We are projecting similar repair work this year on the E tier.

Mandate to install sprinklers in each unit: State Fire Marshal Larry Matkaitis is advocating the installation of fire sprinklers in every high-rise unit, including pre-1975 buildings that would otherwise be exempted under Chicago's life safety ordinances. The Board of Directors urges all owners and residents to voice their objections to the pending sprinkler mandate. If passed by the Joint Committee on Legislative Rules, the mandate will financially affect unit owners and renters for many years.



Management has sample letters, a list of arguments against the mandate, envelopes and stamps – all ready for you to use to express your opinions. DO NOT WAIT.

Correction: We indicated in a recent memo on the topic that the fire-rated walls between units are made of cinder blocks. This is incorrect. The fire-rated walls are composed of drywall and metal

studs.

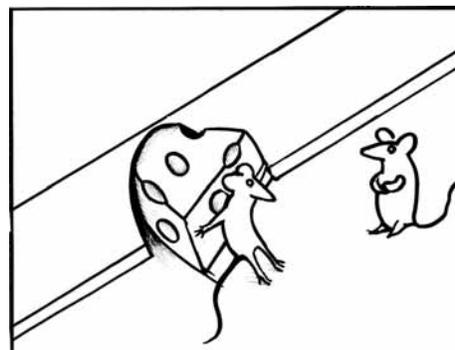
2012 real-estate tax exemptions: Unit owners have received their second installment bill for the 2012 real-estate taxes. Unless you are exempted from paying the fee for our attorney, who contested the assessed value for all the units, each unit owner will be billed their portion of the attorney's fee in three installments, which will appear on the October, November and December statements prepared by Sudler.

Only those unit owners who were granted either a long-time occupant exemption or a senior freeze exemption will be exempted from this billing by Sudler, because they don't benefit from the tax protest. Either exemption has to be printed at the bottom of your tax bill to be recognized by Malibu East.

A regular *senior exemption* doesn't exempt a unit owner from the Sudler billing of the attorney's fee. It is not equivalent to a *senior freeze exemption*.

Being an owner-occupant at Malibu East for more than 10 years may not necessarily qualify you for a long-time occupant exemption. You must submit a special application for this exemption each year, and the application is mailed only to eligible owners as determined by the Cook County assessor. And even if you meet the income qualifications, you still may not receive the exemption if the assessed value of your unit hasn't increased by more than a predetermined formula.

Questions or concerns? Email me at MECAmgr@SudlerChicago.com or telephone 773-271-1732.



Suggest a caption - see right column

Caption contest

We're giving you a second chance. You have another opportunity to enter the contest in which we're asking our readers to suggest humorous captions for the cartoon you see at the bottom.

You can email your suggested caption to Dialogue@MalibuEast.org or write it on a sheet of paper and leave it with the doorman to the attention of the Dialogue editor, Neil Warner. Include your name, unit number and either your telephone number or email address with your entry.

You can submit as many entries as you wish. The entry deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 30.

Our cartoonist, Nick Blea, is donating a \$25 gift card to the person who submits the winning caption. We'll publish the winning caption in a future issue.

Board meeting notes

(Continued from page 2)

AGAINST the proposed rules or else they will be adopted. The Board urges all owners and residents to write or email the JCAR members without delay, because Aug. 12 is the deadline for public comment. A more detailed explanation of the issues involved, as well as the addresses and email addresses of the appropriate public officials, has been distributed to all owners and residents. These materials are also available in the Management Office.

RATIFICATION OF ACTION TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION

1) None

The meeting ended at 9:45 p.m. and went into closed session.

Special owners meeting

July 23, 2013

Attendance: Eleven Board members, two management representatives and 16 residents
Excused: Sandy Chaet
Presiding: President Marcel Molins

This special meeting of unit owners was held immediately before the regularly scheduled Board meeting. Following an open forum to discuss the pros and cons of exercise, the owners approved a motion authorizing the Board of Directors to exercise its right of first refusal on unit 23L at a purchase price of \$107,120, plus or minus prorations. President Molins voted the proxies in favor of the resolution to exercise.

Following another open forum to discuss the sale of association-owned unit 41K, the owners approved a motion authorizing the Board to sell 41K at a price of \$202,000, plus or minus prorations. President Molins voted the proxies in favor of the resolution to sell.



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

EDGE FEST

Street fair featuring local artists, live music and food from neighborhood restaurants.

5900 N. Broadway (at Thorndale)

Sat., Aug. 3, noon - 10 p.m.

Sun., Aug. 4, noon - 9 p.m.

Admission: \$5 donation suggested

EDGEWATER BRANCH LIBRARY

Now open for business at:

6000 N. Broadway

Mon. and Wed.: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Tue. and Thur.: noon - 8 p.m.

Fri. and Sat.: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

(closed on Sundays)

tinyurl.com/5L55TL

EDGEWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

"Anniversary Year Treasures of Edgewater"

(25 years as a historical society)

The current exhibit is for the Treasures of Edgewater.

Join us for another performance by the "Those Were The Days Radio Players" at the museum: a Marx Brothers comedy and a great old "Gunsmoke" Western.

Saturday, Aug. 31, 2 p.m.

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

THEATER / SHOWINGS

CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARKS

"The Comedy of Errors"

Chicago Shakespeare Theater brings one of the Bard's comedies to the neighborhoods, condensed to 75 minutes.

6:30 p.m. Fri., Aug. 3, and Sat., Aug. 4
Loyola Park (Farwell Avenue entrance)

1230 W. Greenleaf Ave.

Admission: Free

www.chicagoshakes.com

REDTWIST THEATRE

"The Beautiful Dark"

Can a mother stop her depressed teenage son from doing the unthinkable?

Thru Sept. 1

1044 W. Bryn Mawr

773-728-7529

redtwist.org

STEEP THEATRE

"Fallow"

In the wake of the murder of her only son, a mother retraces his steps in search of answers.

Thru Aug. 17

1115 W. Berwyn

866-811-4111

steeptheatre.com

**Express your opinion
about the fire sprinkler
mandate.
For more info, go to the
Management Office.**

**"Town Crier"
announcements
by Caitlin Gilman**

We welcome all new residents to our building, including:

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

Malibu East's laundry list

By Carl Chadek

As you may know, we are about to begin a major renovation of our Laundry Room. The Board of Directors and its related committees have been working very hard researching companies and equipment. The Aesthetics & Building Maintenance Committee, along with the Long-Range Planning Committee, have interviewed prospective laundry companies and visited several laundry rooms of large buildings like ours. It's not an easy task. Clean laundry is an amazingly important component of our lives.

With that in mind, the Board and its committees decided that a state-of-the-art Laundry Room is what MECA needs and deserves. We are a class-A building with resort-style amenities. Yes, some things don't get done as quickly as I would have them. However, when any project is started here at Malibu East, it's done not only as maintenance but as an improvement.

Back to laundry. When I was a kid, my mom did our laundry with a wringer washer, and everything was hung outside to dry. I am aging myself, but I do remember hearing my mom say, "Oh, nuts!" when a button went through the wringer the wrong way and ripped out of a shirt. Actually, "Oh, nuts!" was probably not exactly the exclamation that was used. But I digress. We have come a long way in the science of laundry. Wringers gave way to automatics. Laundry hung outside to dry gave way to tumble dryers. And I'm here to tell you this: My buttons are still on my shirts because we don't use wringer washers, and my sheets don't have to be rewashed after hanging outside and being subjected to the editorial comments of a bird flying overhead.

Here is a short "laundry list" of considerations:

- Did you know that the temperature of the water makes no difference in how clean your laundry gets?

Absolutely true. With the elimination, a number of years back, of chemical

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Laundry list

(Continued from page 4)

phosphates, which turned out to be a horrifying environmental pollutant, modern laundry detergents perform the same at any temperature. No matter what the manufacturer says.

- Did you know that suds have nothing to do with the efficacy of laundry detergent?

Absolutely true. Suds are a marketing tool. We've been trained to think that sudsy water cleans better. Suds float on top of the water. The detergent that actually cleans your laundry is IN the water. Sudsing agents are an additive to detergents to make us think they are really doing the job.

- Did you know that front-loading washers do a significantly better job of cleaning your laundry?

Absolutely true. Top-loading washers swish your laundry around in already dirty water while tying your shirt sleeves in knots. The action of front-loading machines tumbles the laundry in and out of the water. The laundry never sits in dirty water. Front-loading washers also spin at much greater speeds than top loaders, meaning reduced drying times.

- Did you know that front-loading washers use less than half the water of a similar-capacity top loader?

Absolutely true. Top loaders need enough water to cover the laundry so that the agitator can wear out your underwear. Front loaders need only enough water to send the water and detergent through the laundry – the laundry never sits in dirty water.

This "laundry list" is certainly not all-encompassing, but I hope that it answers some of your questions. We've done an awful lot of research to make sure that the best decisions are made. If you have questions about our upcoming new Laundry Room, please email me (Dialogue@MalibuEast.org) or write to my attention at the Management Office. You will get a response.

Carl Chadek is vice chair of both the Aesthetics & Building Maintenance Committee and the Long-Range Planning Committee.

Farmers markets

By Lori Ziesmer

Nothing is more satisfying to eat on a hot summer's day than a fresh salad made from assorted vegetables and fruits. Chicago has more than 30 neighborhood and downtown farmers markets this year, giving all of us plenty of choices where to purchase our produce. Lucky for Malibu East residents there are several farmers markets that are easily accessible from our home.

Edgewater farmers market – The closest market to our condominium is located at Norwood and Broadway, outside the True Nature Foods store. The market is open on Saturdays through Oct. 26 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Catering to the Edgewater community and other nearby neighborhoods, the farmers, artisans and musicians will entertain and delight you with engaging conversation and a large assortment of fresh farm produce.

If you are looking for breads, jams, honey, cheeses, delicious produce or baked goods, the Edgewater farmers market is for you. On select Saturdays you can stroll between the vendors, sampling tomato focaccia bread and assorted cheeses while listening to musical entertainment featuring a singer and jazz guitarist. I enjoy being able to visit with the vendors, learn about their products, sample a few things before I buy, all in a relaxed atmosphere. There will also be appearances throughout the summer from health-related vendors whose services include teeth whitening, a chiropractor and several other health and wellness companies.

Andersonville farmers market – Located on Berwyn Avenue between Clark Street and Ashland Avenue, about four blocks west of the Red Line L stop at Berwyn, the Andersonville farmers market is open Wednesday evenings from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. through Sept. 4, and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sept. 11 to Oct. 16. Now in its fifth year, this market was voted one of the five best farmers markets by Chicago magazine. The market has more vendors than Edgewater's, and it caters to people stopping by after work on their way

home, so expect it to be crowded after 5:30 p.m.

This year the market has some of the best locally grown produce, as well as vendors participating from around the Midwest. At the market you will find organic meats, eggs, cheeses, ready-to-eat empanadas, seasonal soups, tofu products, pasta sauces, salsas and gourmet teas, as well as fruits and vegetables. The market vendors are very friendly, and the size of the market is more intimate than most of the downtown markets, making it easy to walk around. Stop and chat with the farmers who are so proud of their offerings, and sample a wide variety of breads and organic produce.

If you work downtown, or just want to spend a few hours in the central business district, my three recommendations are the Federal Plaza farmers market, located at 230 S. Dearborn St., open on Tuesdays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.; the Willis Tower farmers market, located at 233 S. Wacker Drive; and the Daley Plaza market at 50 W. Washington St. Both the Willis Tower and Daley Plaza markets are open on Thursdays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Willis Tower market is back after a year off due to the reconstruction project of Wacker Drive in 2012. This intimate market features nine vendors. One of the vendors has a cheese stand and serves an excellent four-cheese, tomato and marmalade panini that I enjoyed so much on a recent Thursday that I will be back again for another.

The Daley and Federal Plaza markets are the two largest in the city, featuring more than 60 vendors at each of the locations. You can spend hours walking through the aisles of stands sampling produce, breads, cheeses, sauces and candies. If you don't find what you are looking to purchase at the Daley or Federal market, it probably doesn't exist.

With the arrival of August, raspberries, cherries, blueberries, cucumbers, carrots, peppers and avocados will all be in season, as well as bib lettuce and spinach. I can hardly wait for my next salad made from produce I purchased at one of the city's farmers markets.

Muslims share Ramadan meals with non-Muslims

By Beth Robinson

In July, "Ramadan Mubarak" ("blessed, or happy, Ramadan") signs appeared along Devon Avenue as the Muslim holiday of Ramadan began. Ramadan, the ninth month in the Islamic calendar, is celebrated as the time when the Koran, the holy book of Islam, was first revealed to the prophet Mohammed. The holiday is a time of spiritual reflection and calls for Muslims to fast from sunrise to sunset every day.

Because the lunar calendar does not match the solar calendar, Ramadan falls at a different time every year, beginning about 11 days earlier each year. Ramadan starts with the appearance of the new crescent moon. Although many Muslims begin Ramadan on the date determined by Islamic authorities according to astronomical calculations, some Muslims believe that a new moon must be visible before Ramadan can begin. So this year Ramadan began on July 9 for most Muslims in North America but not until July 10 for some in the Chicago area.

During the long, hot days of summer, fasting is a challenge as it means abstaining from food or drink for an average of 16½ hours while going about one's daily activities. In particular, ignoring a dry mouth and cravings for water on a hot day is difficult. Fasters wake up early each day to eat a meal called Suhur before the sun rises.



At sunset the fast is broken, following a prayer service, with a meal called Iftar, which may often be shared with family and friends. The foods served vary depending on the ethnic background of the preparers. Muslims in our city come from many different parts of the world – Pakistan, Albania, Indonesia, the Middle East, Turkey, Bosnia and northern Africa, to name a few – as well as Chicago.

This year I had the opportunity to participate in two Iftar events, a Neighborhood and Friendship Dinner at the Turkish Cultural Society of Chicago and the Taste of Ramadan hosted by the Council on American-Islamic Relations. At both events Muslims and non-Muslims gathered after sunset to eat together. The meals started with a date, traditionally the first food eaten to break the fast, and water. What followed was a delicious dinner.

The sit-down dinner at the Turkish Cultural Society featured Turkish foods, including a soup made with yogurt and the best baklava I have ever tasted, combined with friendly conversation with the other diners seated at the table.

The fifth annual Taste of Ramadan drew about 300 people and featured a feast of foods from different countries, with appetizers, entrees and desserts donated by the participants and restaurants. Foods at the Taste ranged from hummus, samosas and Moroccan soup to chicken biryani, spicy gyros pizza, butter chicken and coconut tres leches cupcakes.

White elephant sale planned

By Sandy Chaet

The Malibu East Social Committee will host its annual white elephant sale on Saturday, Aug. 24 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Captain's Walk.

Flyers will be distributed to residents, who can sign up and reserve spaces. The deadline to reserve is Thursday, Aug. 15. Only Malibu East residents can reserve table space.

Participants have to provide their own six-foot table and chairs. There is a \$5 fee to reserve table space. Space is limited and will be assigned on a first-sign-up basis. Return the flyer and a check, made payable to MECA, to the Management Office. After participants sign up, each will be contacted with their time to set up.

A white elephant sale is for used items. Among the items we have seen in the past were luggage, purses, jewelry, collectibles, dishes, DVDs, books, children's items and computer items. Each participant is in charge of their own items. Malibu East is not responsible for any item sold.

The Social Committee has also scheduled an ice cream social for Sunday, Aug. 18 at 1:30 p.m. The event will be held in the Windjammer Room and, if the weather cooperates, on the fourth-floor deck, too.

A new exercise/belly dance class will begin Thursday, Aug. 8 from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Windjammer Room. The cost of the class is \$50 for five sessions.

Meanwhile, the Zumba class continues on Sunday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Racquetball Court. There will be no class on Sept. 1. The Zumba class is free to residents.

Buying • Selling • Renting • Management

Your Sheridan Road Condo Specialists

For sale in Malibu East: 21E, 32J
Recently sold in Malibu East: 17L, 32D
For sale in Malibu: 21H (1BR), 30D
Rentals available Malibu & Malibu East

773-334-0200



Wagner Realty Services, LLC



Captain's Walk Mall
6033 N. Sheridan Rd. #5
Chicago, IL 60660

Phone: (773) 334-0200
Cell: (773) 297-0205
HMWagnerRealty@sbcglobal.net



Helen Wagner

Malibu Convenient Food Mart

6033 N. Sheridan in the Captain's Walk

Stop in for
coffee – and.



Fresh pastries
delivered daily

Mon-Fri:
8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Saturday:
8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sunday:
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For Delivery Call: 773-769-5440

Energy ordinance would affect Malibu East

By Neil Warner

The Chicago City Council will consider a proposed "Building Energy Use Benchmarking" ordinance when it meets Sept. 11, and its action on the proposal potentially could have a big effect on owners and renters at Malibu East and other Chicago high-rises.

The proposed ordinance would require all apartment and condo buildings of 50,000 square feet or more to report to the city how much energy they're using, as well as how much is being used by each individual residential unit, according to William O'Leary, president of ABOMA, the Apartment Building Owners and Managers Association. This ordinance would take effect in June 2015. Failure to comply, including the failure of any individual resident to report their energy usage to management, would result in a fine. The proposed ordinance would also require that our association's energy reports be verified by a licensed professional every

three years.

Among the potential consequences of this ordinance, according to O'Leary, is that associations will have to raise their assessments to cover the additional responsibilities placed on them, including the potential for future retrofitting and upgrades to meet city standards or goals. And because the energy scores of each building will be posted online by city regulators, a below-average score could stigmatize a property and depress its property values.

ABOMA and ASCO (the Association of Sheridan Road Condo/Co-op Owners) oppose the ordinance as written.

Twelve aldermen, including our own 48th Ward Ald. Harry Osterman, were successful at the July 24 City Council meeting in employing a procedural tactic to "defer and publish" the ordinance, which meant that it would not be voted on until the Sept. 11 Council meeting.

42nd Ward Ald. Brendan Reilly, who was among the aldermen supporting a deferral of the ordinance, said he supports the idea of energy benchmarking, but that other states have learned that the requirement for public disclosure has proved counterproductive.

Instead, Reilly supports "transactional disclosure" of the energy usage, which would ensure buyers have access to the information before purchasing a property.

Reilly also said that he will continue to oppose the ordinance "until it is amended to (1) prevent the further marginalization of older buildings in the local real estate market; and (2) to better shield condominium and co-op owners from the financial burden of costly mandates associated with the ordinance."

If you wish to express your opinion about the added financial burden that this ordinance would create in an already depressed housing market, you can write to: Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Mayor's Office, Room 500, City Hall, Chicago, IL 60601. You can email him at: letterforthemayor@cityofchicago.org, with a copy of the email sent to: mayor.emanuel@cityofchicago.org.

A reasonable approach is to ask the city administration that it hold the measure in committee to allow for additional discussion and changes that would make it more palatable to Chicago homeowners.

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More balcony gardening tips

By Beth Robinson

Some Malibu East balconies are lush with greenery this summer. In June we asked readers to share their gardening experiences, and we received several responses.

This is the second year that Alex Kernerman is growing an herb garden on his balcony. He offers this advice: "We discovered that the secret to the successful herb garden is a well-watered container and found a perfect match at www.monkeypots.com. This website sells big and small 'self-watering' planters. (We bought two small ones at

monkeypots.com/altsmallplanter.html). What this means is you pour water through the plastic tube (which is permanently placed inside the planter) to the bottom tray inside the planter. This way water is consumed gradually and does not evaporate with wind and sun. We still water our herbs daily."

Readers who would like more information can send questions to Alex at Dialogue@MalibuEast.org.

I asked Dorothy Doherty to show me her high-rise garden. Once again, she has flowers galore, as well as tomato plants. A few flowers have succumbed to the wind, but most are flourishing. Her morning glory vine is starting to make its way up the mesh covering the railing.



Margo Ryerson took a different approach. After losing plants to wind and storms year after year, she gave up on gardening. Three years ago she started decorating her balcony with artificial indoor/outdoor plants that remain year-round and last for several years. She reports that her solution works well: no watering, no dead-heading, no bugs, and the plants are deer-resistant (if there were deer).

The night shift (Continued from page 1)

the lower level and particularly in the Laundry Room. It's a whole lot more than I realized, and takes at least 2-3 hours, sometimes longer. The hallway from the freight elevator to the Laundry Room and the entire passenger elevator area need to be freed of garbage and debris, cleaned and mopped.

In the Laundry Room, trash cans get emptied, the tops and backs of the dryers are checked for dust and debris, dryer filters are cleaned, all washing machines are checked and cleaned inside and out, and floors are checked for water leaks from the machines, cleaned and mopped. Also, the paper towels are replenished, and problems or machine outages are noted and reported. Our Laundry Room is officially closed from midnight to 6 a.m. so our night-shift brothers can do their work uninterrupted – but they make an exception when someone seems to have a real emergency. They're just not happy when they have to clean the same area more than once, or when there's sand, oil, sticky stuff or ink, which can be difficult to remove, in the washing machines.

Of course, they often find lonely single socks and a whole bunch of other laundry items left in either the washers or dryers, together with odd coins and once even a bunch of laundered dollar bills flying around in a dryer. Lost laundry items are safely stored in a room next to the change machine. So, if you're missing something precious and thought someone took it by mistake, just ask the maintenance staff or the Management Office to let you have a look in there. There's a very large pile of unclaimed stuff, and you may find the mate to that favorite sock you're missing.

I got up at 7 a.m. on a recent Sunday to do a quick load of washing – and sure enough, there was a smiling Froylan just finishing his shift and deciding he had to do a couple more chores before he went home to a well-deserved sleep. I was happy to be able to say thanks. If you see Manuel or Froylan sometime late at night or early in the morning, I hope you will, too. And, next time you need to dispose of some bulk items in our trash rooms, maybe you'll think of our night-shift guys and try to make Froylan's and Manuel's work a bit easier. They really do care for all of us, and love working at Malibu East.

The Dialogue

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