

Malibu East Dialogue

July 2014

Your Communication and Information Resource

Bulk Internet, improved DirecTV service coming soon

By Thomas C. Vaughan

Malibu East's current five-year contract with DirecTV/USA Wireless is set to expire later this year.



Coincidentally, the poorly performing high-definition (HD) telephone line system and the analog Lifeline channels are being phased out by DirecTV. As a result, Malibu East hired Bryan Rader of Bandwidth Consulting LLC, an industry consultant, and developed an RFP (request for proposal) in the first quarter that was sent to all Chicago-area service providers to explore our options. This RFP was built from the results of a February building-wide survey of owners and residents, which elicited 176 responses.

After a lot of work by the Cable & Communications Committee and the Board of Directors, beginning sometime in the third quarter, Malibu East residents will be provided 21st century Internet service and DirecTV's latest product offerings through contracts recently signed with USA Wireless, a service partner of DirecTV, and HiPoint Technology Services. This article will explore the

rationale behind this change and highlight your new service and its options.

Master television service

Malibu East is currently wired for its master television service with what is called a loop-through or series wiring system. This technology was common when our building was designed in 1970. However, such wiring has one major limitation: A failure at any point in the wire loop affects everything "downstream" of it. It is like old Christmas tree lights; when any bulb burns out in the line, this will cause the entire string of lights to go out. With this system, each unit in a tier shares television signals with



a dozen or more units. A tap on each floor in the loop splits out that unit's signal and sends the remaining signal onto the next floor. Unfortunately, many residents have experienced outages when a neighbor's remodeling has disrupted the television service for all the units in their loop. Neither AT&T, Comcast nor DirecTV can utilize such a system; RCN can, but only with important drawbacks, including those cited above. New buildings today are built with what is called home-run wiring. I promise that this article will not be about the hapless Chicago Cubs, as home-run wiring has nothing to do with baseball. The term means that every condominium unit has a dedicated wire line straight back to the originating communications point.

DirecTV attempted to utilize its MFH3/telephone wiring system to deliver HD service in a home-run fashion to residents. Unfortunately, our 45-year-old copper telephone lines are showing their age and DirecTV's technology for their use was not reliable. Most of the residents who experienced this HD service have not been pleased and, because of these facts,

DirecTV is actually discontinuing support for this telephone wire technology. In spite of this unsatisfactory performance, our survey showed that 53% of our owners (21% of renters) wanted us to remain with USA Wireless/DirecTV. Based on discussions with the representatives of other high-rise buildings that are using DirecTV's newer technology and home-run wiring, the committee determined that they have been very pleased with the reception, reliability and service. Our consultant, Rader, has said that, all other things being equal, it is preferable for a high-rise to stay with its current provider because of the inevitable problems inherent in switching providers. Rader additionally said RCN's alternative suggestion of continuing to use our existing loop wiring system would not be a workable solution long-term.

Changing over to home-run wiring can be very disruptive, expensive and time-consuming. The existing three-quarter-inch conduit that holds the coaxial cable for our loop system and a sister unused three-quarter-inch conduit do not provide enough space to accommodate the individual wires for all 42 residential floors. In our February needs-assessment survey of owners and residents, we found that 82% of survey respondents wanted to upgrade the wiring system now, not later. When we took our request for proposal to the major service providers, we looked at their differing plans to provide modern wiring. With one exception, the four major service providers (AT&T, Comcast, DirecTV and

(Continued on page 5)

Malibu East events and meetings

Dialogue staff meeting

Wednesday, July 2

7:30 p.m. - Community Room

Thursday afternoon discussion

Thursday, July 17

(every 3rd Thursday of the month)

2:00 p.m. - Community Room

White Elephant Sale

Saturday, July 19

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

Board meeting

Tuesday, July 22

7:30 p.m. - Windjammer Room

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

Our condolences
to the family
and friends of
Cecy Szuba





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, June 24, 2014

Attendance: Ten Board members, three management representatives and 10 residents

Excused: Richard Strauss, Martina Molins

Presiding: President Marcel Molins

REVISIONS TO AGENDA

- 1) "Unit 16B" and "Unit 4L" were added under Items Requiring Board Action.
- 2) "4L list of work" was deleted under Unfinished Business.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Joan Scholl

1) Financial statement

Operating and reserve cash
\$3,529,936

2) Delinquencies

\$306,486 (90-plus days)

3) Audit

Pending final review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1) Architecture & Building Services – Carl Chadek

A special Board meeting will be scheduled to finalize the elevator interior cab design and controls.

2) Communications & Cable – Thomas Vaughan

See article, page 1.

3) Pet – Sandy Chaet

New gravel has been added to the first dog run.

4) Sports & Entertainment – Neil Warner

New yoga class begins July 7.

5) Social – Sandy Chaet

White Elephant Sale will be held July 19 (see article, page 8); a potluck dinner Aug. 24; flu shots Oct. 15; Country Doctors musical group Oct. 25. Zumba class will be held July 13 and 20; no class July 6 or 27. Check the bulletin boards or the calendar at www.MalibuEast.org for updates.

6) ASCO, Community Affairs – Sandy Chaet

SB 2664, which would reduce the portion of delinquencies that a condo association can recoup in case of foreclosure, awaits Gov. Quinn's action. Please contact the governor, urging him to veto the bill. ASCO and Emanuel Congregation will present a singalong tribute to Pete Seeger, led by Ruth Seidner, at 3 p.m. July 20 at the temple entrance at Sheridan and Thorndale; bring a chair or blanket. EdgeFest summer street festival will be Aug. 2-3 on Broadway from Thorndale to Ardmore. Sheridan Road beautification

fundraiser at Marty's Martini Bar, 1511 W. Balmoral; free admission, cash bar.

MANAGEMENT REPORT – Violette

Deschamps

Items requiring immediate Board action

1) Sealant and balcony coating

Our engineering firm recommended that we delay balcony recoating in favor of first replacing the sealant around the windows for all tiers. See page 3.

2) 26L contractor selection

A vendor was approved.

3) 9L contractor selection

A vendor was approved.

4) Voice communication maintenance

Directors hired a vendor for this task.

5) 22.1 disclosure form

Board approved it.

6) Unit 16B

Directors approved a two-year lease of this Association-owned unit.

7) Unit 4L

Board clarified its position regarding the exercise of its right of first refusal on this unit.

Unfinished business

1) Penthouse change order

Awaiting details.

2) Security deposits

Awaiting management's recommendation.

3) Distributed antenna system

Approved last month.

4) Website

Board approved implementation of redesigned website featuring important notices, calendar of events, Dialogue articles and new photos of the building and its amenities. Resident-only area of site was put on hold.

Old/new business

1) 16B sale

Association-owned unit will be leased for two years.

2) Election calendar

Not ready.

3) Budget calendar

Not ready.

4) 22D lease modification

Denied.

RATIFICATION OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

- 1) Board denied a request from a former owner to settle a lawsuit.

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

Defeat SB2664

A legislative bill that would be detrimental to condominium associations was sitting on Gov. Pat Quinn's desk, awaiting his action, as of press time.

Illinois Senate Bill 2664 is a proposed amendment to the Illinois Condominium Property Act that would change how associations such as ours can collect delinquencies on units that go through foreclosure. In nearly all instances of foreclosure, an association would be able to collect less of the money owed to it under the new bill than under the current law.

Although SB2664 would increase the number of months of assessments that an association could recoup following a foreclosure, from six months to nine, it would eliminate the association's ability to collect attorneys' fees, late fees, special assessments and the costs of making a foreclosed unit rent-ready, if applicable. Technically, an association can recover attorneys' fees if the total delinquency owed doesn't exceed the sum of nine months of regular assessments. However, since foreclosures in Cook County typically take at least 18 months to go through the judicial process, a foreclosed unit typically has more than nine months of unpaid assessments.

If Gov. Quinn signs the legislation, condo associations will have to compensate for the larger write-offs they are saddled with by increasing assessments for the owners who are paying as required.

Tell Gov. Quinn you are opposed to this legislation, and explain how it will impact your pocketbook. Because the governor is likely to act soon (he had 60 days to act on it), you should either phone his office at 217-782-0244 or 312-814-2121 or click on "Contact Us" at the bottom of: www.Illinois.gov



What's happening around the building

By Violette Deschamps, Malibu East Manager

Pool season: As a reminder, Malibu East does not have a lifeguard on duty at the pool. Any person using the pools does so at his or her own risk, including the children under his/her supervision. Malibu East has pool attendants, whose main duty is to enforce the rules of the Association related to the pool enclosure and the fourth-floor sundeck. The other duties of the pool attendants are to keep the area clean, check that residents have pool tags, make sure that guests are accompanied by their resident hosts, and so forth. Should you witness some irregularities jeopardizing the safety of users of the pool deck, please promptly alert the pool attendant or management.

Except when we have inclement weather, the hours when all residents can enjoy the pool deck, with the pool attendant present, are from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day (the pool deck is unlocked at 6 a.m. for adults who enjoy an early swim).

Here are some important pool rules:

- A pool tag per person
- Two guests maximum per unit (not per resident)
- No smoking
- Shower before entering either pool
- Proper swimming attire (no street clothes)
- No food or beverage
- No metal or glass containers
- No running or non-water games
- No private pool parties
- No pets

Enjoy the summer!

Sealant and balcony coating: The Board of Directors was informed by Klein and Hoffman, the engineering firm for the Association, of a situation related to the existing conditions of the coating on the balconies and the expected warranty of the work to be done.

Klein and Hoffman assessed available options for the balcony recoating with the manufacturer of the coating, BASF. K&H came to a twofold conclusion: First, an effective balcony recoating will require much more intensive work than had been predicted and would not be financially achievable this year. Secondly, the replacement of the aged sealant around the patio doors is more critical to reducing water penetration from the exterior walls than is the balcony recoating.

Based on these considerations, K&H recommended to the Board that it focus this year and possibly in 2015 and 2016 on replacing the perimeter sealant around the patio doors for 3-to-4 tiers a year and to postpone the balcony recoating for this year.

The Board discussed this matter at its last Board meeting on June 24 and supported the approach suggested by K&H. The sealant work will start with the E tier. We will inform you of the other selected tiers for 2014 and the sealant work schedule as soon as it has been determined by the Board and Reliable Building Services, our contractor for this work.

What this means to you if your tier is selected for work this year:

- There will be no recoating work on your balcony this year;
- Reliable Building Services (RBS) will replace the sealant around the patio doors of the selected tiers once a schedule is prepared;
- Residents can use their balconies at their leisure when RBS is not working;
- RBS workers will access balconies with a suspended scaffold with minimum disturbance to our residents;
- The path to access the patio doors must be kept clear of obstacles.

Life safety evaluation: We completed the first cart round in which our staff installed the spring hinges and smoke detectors. The second round will be scheduled for early July. A schedule will be distributed to the residents of designated floors to indicate when the work will be performed on a specific floor.

For those of you who were not home during the first cart round, remember that the second cart round is your last chance to have this work done at a discounted rate before the City inspection. The second round is also your last chance to have this done before the City inspection because the maintenance crew has other tasks to tackle before the inspection.

You must contact management on time to make arrangements to enter your unit should you anticipate to be absent during the second round. In case you're uncertain, we advise you to give us access. You must either email or phone us to make this arrangement.

Several owners contacted management to schedule appointments. Please remember that we do not have the luxury to go up and down to satisfy individual appointments or needs. Please make arrangement with management to give us access to your unit, not to schedule a particular date and time.

Elevator project: This project is progressing well. Both mechanical and aesthetic consultants are working on their presentations for the Board. The first elevator to be remodeled will be the service elevator. Finishes will be nicer, stronger and easier to maintain, and the lighting will be improved. Once the service elevator is completed, the passenger elevators will be remodeled successively, one at a time. The overall remodeling project will last about two years from the date the construction contract is signed.

Penthouse repair project: Golf Construction is experiencing some delay on this project due to the conditions of the concrete slab of the east penthouse roof. Part of the roof slab must be redone, full depth, due to its advanced deterioration. We anticipate another 1½ months of work to complete the project, weather permitting.

Facade repair work: Golf Construction will have completed the concrete repairs of the balconies of the E tier by the end of June. Golf will inform management of the schedule to initiate the repair work on the H tier; a notice will be door-dropped to each resident of the H tier as soon as the schedule is established. The work on the H tier will last from 6 to 8 weeks, weather permitting. These concrete repairs generate noise and vibrations in the building. Golf Construction maintains a panel in the Lobby of the building illustrating the progress of its work.

Patio doors: Phone Caitlin at 773-271-1732 to indicate the number of small and/or large sliding glass doors, if any, that you would like to have replaced in your unit later this year. You can also email her at mecaoffi ce@sudl erchi cago. com. The cost will be determined once the Board reviews competitive bids from vendors to obtain the best possible discounted, bulk price. Owners are not obligated to use the vendor recommended by the Board, but the installation of a new sliding glass door must not change the appearance of the balcony, a limited common element. The replacement cost for any sliding glass doors will be borne by the unit owners who elect to have this work done.



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.

Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-10 p.m.

Sat.-Sun. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

5917 N. Broadway

312-742-7502

ti.nyurl.com/27YYYN

EDGEWATER BRANCH LIBRARY

6000 N. Broadway

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

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

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

(closed on Sundays)

312-742-1945

chicpublib.org/locations/28

EDGEWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Opening July 12: "Motoring through Edgewater" (thru March 13, 2015).

Regular museum hours:

Saturday and Sunday 1-4 p.m.

5358 N. Ashland Ave.

773-506-4849

www.EdgewaterHistory.org

ST. ANDREW'S 53rd ANNUAL GREEK FESTIVAL

Greek food, beer and wine, dancers, music, children's activities and marketplace. Extra parking.

July 12-13; Sat. 3-11 p.m.,

Sun. noon-11 p.m.

5649 N. Sheridan Road

773-334-4515

www.StAndrewOrthodox.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

whitcranewellness.org

THEATER / SHOWINGS

GRIFFIN (at the RAVEN THEATRE)

"Men Should Weep" by Ena Lamont

Stewart

Follow the fortunes of the Morrison family in Glasgow during the 1930s depression.

July 5 thru Aug. 10

6157 N. Clark

griffintheatre.com

REDTWIN THEATRE

"Geezers" by Tommy Lee Johnston

We are introduced to some beautiful and wonderful old people who are enjoying their golden years in a retirement home.

July 26 thru Aug. 24

1044 W. Bryn Mawr

773-728-7529

redtwinst.org

STEEP THEATRE

"A Small Fire" by Adam Bock

A moving portrait of a marriage in flux. Everything is set in motion with a small kitchen fire.

July 10 thru Aug. 16

1115 W. Berwyn

773-649-3186

steeptheatre.com

THEATER ON THE LAKE AT BERGER

Chicago Park District's "Night Out" series:

"A Day in the Death of Joe Egg"

performed by Stage Left Theatre

July 9-13

"A Cole Porter Songbook" per-

formed by Theo Ubique Cabaret

Theatre

July 23-27

"Great Expectations" performed by

Strawdog Theatre

Aug. 6-10

Berger Park Coach House

6205 N. Sheridan Road

773-761-0376

chicagoparkdistrict.com/events/night-out-in-the-parks

MECA garage rates

As of Jan. 1, 2014

Monthly rates

1st motorcycle	\$71
1st single self-parking	141
1st tandem parking	128
1st valet parking	116

Monthly surcharges

Preferred	\$32
2nd vehicle	28
3rd vehicle	32
4th vehicle	80

Guest parking rates

Up to 2 hours	\$5
2 to 4 hours	8
4 to 6 hours	10
6 to 12 hours	15
12 to 24 hours	20
Weekly	60

Parking coupons

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

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

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

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

To cancel parking, the parker must provide either the Garage Management or the Building Management Office with a written parker cancellation plus the decal no less than thirty (30) days prior to the proposed date of the cancellation.

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

Atrium parkers must register at the doorman's station and are limited to 15 minutes. Violators will be towed.

Death notices

Whenever a Malibu East resident passes away, the *Dialogue* endeavors to mention that death in its next issue in a "condolences" box. If you would like to have a photo of your loved one published alongside his/her name, please email the photo to Dialogue@MalibuEast.org and mention your loved one's name and the date of death.

The *Dialogue* staff will not actively seek out a photo for publication.

2013-14 Board of Directors

Marcel Molins, President
 Richard Strauss, Vice President
 Thomas Vaughan, 2nd Vice President
 Joan Scholl, Treasurer
 Neil Warner, Assistant Treasurer
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 Carol Beatty, Assistant Secretary
 Carl Chadek, Director
 Sandy Chaet, Director
 Allan Eckardt, Director
 Martina Molins, Director
 Carl Stahlheber, Director

Internet and DirecTV service (Continued from page 1)

RCN) wanted to either (1) run wire molding up our stairways, down our hallways and into each unit on the surface of the walls, or (2) attach a channel down the exterior facade of the building. You can view this last unattractive solution at a neighboring building on the west side of Sheridan Road. Either solution was not acceptable to the majority of members on the committee and our Board.

USA Wireless and DirecTV came up with a much more expensive and less visually intrusive plan to core through our balconies and run the twin wires of coax and Ethernet into units, entering about 12 feet from the existing loop-through system's distribution boxes. This will finally give our building modern technology. For our protection, our outside engineering firm has vetted the structural components of this plan and it will be supervising the important elements of the project. The waterproof membrane's integrity will be maintained with approved BASF sealant applied to each hole. The dual wiring technology of coax and Ethernet is expected to serve our building's needs for up to two decades. The costs of this much more expensive project are being covered 100% by DirecTV, yet the rates in our contract remain competitive for service at \$22.99 per month, a sizable decrease from the \$32 we have been paying under the current contract. This covers one standard-definition receiver and DirecTV's Choice multiple dwelling unit package, which includes about 150 channels, the majority of which are also in HD, and their music programming as we currently have.

Internet service

We found that close to 90% of our residents already had Internet service and 63% of the survey respondents stated that bulking high-speed service was "very important." This was determined by analyzing the February survey results and other hard numbers supplied by Internet service providers. Bulk rates are much more attractive than an individual alone can negotiate.

HiPoint Technology Services is a locally owned company that has offered Internet services to residential and commercial

buildings for 10 years. It partnered with USA Wireless to provide the Internet component for Malibu East's needs. Each of our units will have a direct Ethernet connection to their fiber-optic-fed service. HiPoint also provides training and technology consulting for its clients. HiPoint's customer service department is available by telephone 24/7. For individual unit service issues, field technicians make calls during normal business hours six days a week, often the same day. For broader system outages, they work round the clock to restore service on-site as soon as possible. These levels are spelled out in our contract, with the ability to cancel it should HiPoint not live up to this commitment.

HiPoint will supply 100 Mbps upload and 100 Mbps download Internet speeds. This is seen as a "market-leading" proposal. Other providers' offers were generally in the 25 Mbps range. In essence, HiPoint's bulk speed for us will be faster today than the fastest speed offered by RCN in Chicago (75 Mbps). Our 100 Mbps service, priced at \$24 per month, is at a level equal to what most providers charge individuals for 4 Mbps service. This rate is guaranteed fixed for the five-year term of our contract. With today's technology, the Ethernet delivery solution being installed can be used to deliver up to 10 Gbps (10,000 Mbps) of service. While few today require this degree of bandwidth, the world seems to be moving in this direction, and Malibu East will now be appropriately equipped to satisfy future needs.

Should you have a single computer, no additional equipment is necessary. The Ethernet cable can be directly plugged into your computer. Alternatively, it can be connected to a hub or wireless router to connect multiple computers, smart TVs, DVRs and other electronics. Once the installation of the new wiring has been completed, HiPoint will host a Genius Squad event in the Lobby, where representatives will answer residents' questions and provide written estimates for any work the resident wishes to have done.

Construction

A preconstruction meeting is taking place in early July with all of the companies involved to coordinate the installation of this significant upgrade. The

coring and running of wires will be done one tier at a time over an estimated seven-day period per tier. The crew will access each balcony from the outside with scaffolding. You will be given notice, and you will need to allow workers to have clear access from the front balcony rail to the white wall to the west of the bedroom next to the living room. The construction company will use a machine to core a one-inch to 2½-inch hole through your balcony surface, run the dual cables through it, seal and waterproof the hole, and install a white wire molding track to hide the cables against this white wall approximately 14 inches west of the bedroom window. The company contracted to do this work, Universal Construction Testing, uses ground-penetrating radar to position this coring away from perpendicular supporting rebar to maintain the structural integrity of our balconies. You can view a test coring and cable molding that was installed outside the fourth-floor Billiard Room. This is the same as the D tier placement.

Once these balcony items are completed, the contractor will need access to your unit to drill into this bedroom wall at electrical power outlet height. A white T-shaped exit molding will then be placed on this molding for your unit's wires, which will enter your unit through a drilled hole into this bedroom. They will be placed into a wall box and then connected by coax wire into your existing cable distribution method for the coax. The Ethernet connection can be distributed either by a wireless router or directly to your electronics through an Ethernet cable.

The contractor will telephone for appointments to coordinate this interior work. With your approval and keys, the Management Office can use building personnel to give the workers access and represent your interests should you be unavailable. Management plans on keeping everyone informed of the ongoing progress as we go and will keep an updated lobby sign showing where things stand at any given time.

DirecTV options

Each unit will receive a basic receiver at no charge. However, because of our

(Continued on page 8)

Restaurant review**Tapas with a twist in Rogers Park****By Tracy Poyser**

Your intrepid Dialogue Diners enjoy sharing dishes so that our readers get a pretty good cross-section of taste buds rather than just individual favorites (or thumbs down). That's why we all leaped at a chance to go for "small plates" tapas dining where we could mix the adventurous with the more familiar. Our taster-in-chief and *Dialogue* editor Neil Warner had spotted **Twisted Tapas** as a new name in a space at 1146 W. Pratt Blvd. that had seen a number of restaurants come and go in the past 10 years – from Café Suron to RoPa and most recently the Aqua Bar. It's just east of Sheridan on the north side of Pratt – a nice location, but it may be easy to overlook if you're not aware of it.

Six of us – Debbie and Neil Warner, Lori Ziesmer, Betty and Ara Mayian, and I – decided to check it out on a rainy night in June. Even though it's street parking only, we had no problem finding a spot within a short distance from Twisted Tapas ... and the #151 bus would take you right to the corner of Pratt and Sheridan. We were greeted immediately and enthusiastically, and seated at a very nice corner table in this spacious restaurant with its high ceilings and large picture windows, which open to the tree-lined sidewalk. The atmosphere was lively, with the noise level somewhere between moderate and loud. Conversation wasn't too difficult most of the time, perhaps because the tables were spaced nicely. The décor is very warm and pleasant, with an attractive bar and ochre-colored walls.

Mike, our waiter, confirmed that Twisted Tapas is the reincarnation of Lakeview's

former Twist: A Tapas Cafe, which closed last October. After losing his lease in Lakeview, Twist's co-owner Bob Parilla apparently was drawn to Rogers Park, especially since his chef from Twist, Mauricio Correa, who had moved to the U.S. at age 18, agreed to come with him. Judging from customer feedback on Yelp! and other dining review pages, his new venture doesn't disappoint.

We ordered a pitcher of the sangria to help us navigate the extensive menu. It's less sweet than others but still very mellow, and four of us actually preferred it that way.

The menu is divided into signature, hot, and cold tapas plus some daily specials, and we ordered a nice cross-section: escargot on crostini in a sherry vinegar-Tia Maria cream sauce; stuffed mushrooms with Monterey Jack, spinach and tomato sauce, brussels sprouts sautéed with dried cherries and bacon and drizzled with a balsamic glaze; "Twisted Caprese" with goat cheese and sliced peach replacing the traditional tomatoes; jalapeño gnocchi with a roasted yellow pepper and Romano cheese sauce; pork tenderloin medallions with turnips, pears and onions in a reduced red wine sauce; green mango salad with grilled shrimp; grilled baby octopus with a roasted corn/cherry tomato salsa; garlic potato salad in aioli; lamb meatballs in a tomato-based sauce; grilled asparagus with lemon vinaigrette; baked goat cheese in a tomato sauce with garlic herb toast; and chorizo and chicken croquettes with a cucumber dipping sauce. Sounds like a lot – but remember all of the portions are just large enough for six diners to each get a bite or two of the dish!

Betty and Ara said that next time they would reorder only one of the five dishes they had selected – the grilled asparagus. The potato salad was a bit bland, in their

view, and the lamb meatballs had a nice texture. They enjoyed the baked goat cheese – a bigger portion than some of the other tapas, with plenty to share. They did say they would go back and check out other offerings.

The rest of us enjoyed most of the dishes we tried, with the absolute favorite being the melt-in-the mouth jalapeño gnocchi, which had just enough of a kick to raise them above the ordinary. Neil and Debbie also favored the charred and peppery brussels sprouts with their tasty combination of bacon and cherries, and the fresh and crunchy green mango salad. Lori and I pretty much inhaled the slightly crusty pork tenderloin in its very fragrant red wine reduction. Baby octopus – generally a favorite of mine – was tasty and well-seasoned, though a bit rubbery (as in slightly overcooked); the escargot weren't among Debbie's favorites, with the sauce overpowering their delicate flavor a bit, but they were juicy and properly cooked.

Of course, even though we were no longer hungry after all that, we couldn't possibly leave without sharing an order of Twisted Tapas' signature desserts: smooth and sinful tiramisu, and a banana concoction with caramel sauce and ice cream.

Overall, your group of DDs (Dialogue Diners, remember?) liked the place a lot and really hope it will get the passionate local following it had in Lakeview. All of us decided we'd go back – in fact, Lori and her husband, Pete, just invited me to dinner there in mid-July – and maybe we'll grab a window table. I can't wait!

Twisted Tapas

1146 W. Pratt Blvd.

773-856-3486

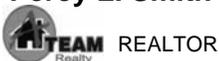
5 p.m.-10 p.m. Tue.-Thu.; 5 p.m.-11 p.m. Fri.-Sat.; 5 p.m.-9 p.m. Sun.

Price range: Moderate

5128 W. Irving Park Rd.
Chicago, Illinois 60641
Business: (773) 283-4600
Home: (773) 271-7649
Cell: (773) 520-1945
PSmith6033@sbcGlobal.net

**Expert service, Buying, selling
or renting — contact Percy**

Units for sale: 20K, 16D

Percy L. Smith

**"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*.

PHONE: (773) 275-0110

HOURS BY APPOINTMENT

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

CAPTAIN'S WALK
 6033 N. SHERIDAN RD.
 CHICAGO, IL 60660
www.horbaldds.com

Buying • Selling • Renting • Management

Your Sheridan Road Condo Specialists

Thinking of selling?
Let's talk!!



Helen Wagner

773-334-0200



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Malibu Convenient Food Mart

6033 N. Sheridan in the Captain's Walk

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Home Improvement Services

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- Plumbing Repairs, Faucets Installed**
- Closet Designs and Installation**

Contact Curtis At:

Office: 773-878-1574
Cell: 773-425-2239
Email: curtisjacobson@sbcglobal.net

No Job Is Too Small
 References Available



Internet and DirecTV service (Continued from page 5)

home-run connection, we will now be able to take advantage of the full range of DirecTV's offerings, including their sophisticated Genie system where, for additional fees, "you can watch, record, pause, rewind, and delete shows in any room of your home, from a single Genie HD DVR. Moreover, your family can watch live or recorded TV in four rooms at once."

After our rewiring and conversion to the new delivery system, Malibu East residents will, in some cases, be able to use their existing DirecTV equipment or, if not, USA Wireless will replace the electronics with the appropriate technology. Upgrading to higher levels of equipment capabilities (e.g., from SD to HD or to Genie) will call for an additional lease upgrade fee paid to DirecTV. New equipment fees range from \$69 for a new SD receiver to \$299 for the Genie product (plus applicable taxes). Expanding the number of receivers will incur monthly fees of \$6 per receiver (regardless of type). Access to HD channels adds \$10 per month, and having at least one DVR adds an additional \$10 per month.

If residents choose any of these services at the onset of the project, there will not be any installation fees. DirecTV will offer discounts to residents who have had an account in good standing for a number of years. USA Wireless will be able to determine any discount as individuals sign up for our new service. Broader programming, such as their Xtra (\$17.99 monthly), Ultimate (\$29.99 monthly) and Premier packages (\$77.99 monthly), are also available, with this additional fee paid to DirecTV in a separate billing. To put these numbers in perspective, the \$22.99 that we are paying for our basic Choice programming is charged at \$66.99 to retail subscribers, representing a 66% discount. A more detailed list of the various charges for equipment and programming will be available soon.

Our neighboring buildings' systems

Many have asked what other neighborhood buildings have chosen. Other buildings have different circumstances and may have approached their negotiations with expectations different from Malibu East's as determined in our

building survey. Two of our neighboring buildings are with RCN. Buildings that continue to use their old loop master cable system will ultimately face the upgrade task that we are doing today at no cost to Malibu East.

With this change, Malibu East ends up owning two upgraded infrastructures, Ethernet and coax, on someone else's dime. This is important, as it also gives us flexibility to consider any service provider in five years. In the interim, if either USA Wireless or HiPoint fails to live up to the terms of its agreement with Malibu East, we can terminate its contract.

Neighboring properties that are not rewiring now will be unable to consider Comcast's XFINITY or AT&T's U-verse without this complete upgrade. To be successful today, new buildings are expected to offer high-speed Internet service. It is believed that our home-run wiring and 100 Mbps Internet will give us a sizzle that will allow us to be more competitive in the condominium market, thereby increasing our property's appeal.

Thomas C. Vaughan is the Board's second vice president and chair of the Cable & Communications Committee.

Larry Rosen contributed to this article.

White Elephant Sale

By Sandy Chaet

The Malibu East Social Committee will be having its annual White Elephant Sale on Saturday, July 19 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Captain's Walk mall.

Flyers have been distributed to residents, who can sign up to reserve a space for the sale. The deadline to reserve your participation is Thursday, July 10. Only Malibu East residents can reserve a space, at a cost of \$5, and each participant has to provide their own six-foot table and chairs. Space is limited and will be assigned on a first-sign-up basis. If you wish to reserve a space, return the completed bottom portion of the flyer to the doorman or the Management Office along with a check made payable to MECA. After participants sign up, each will receive a confirmation with their time to set up.

The White Elephant Sale is for USED items. Some items sold in the past were luggage, purses, jewelry, collectibles, dishes, DVDs, books, children's toys, computer items and knickknacks. Each participant is in charge of their own items, and Malibu East is not responsible for any item sold.

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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