

Malibu East Dialogue

November 2015

Your Communication and Information Resource

Saeed keeps garage humming

By Lori Ziesmer

When I was looking to purchase my condominium, selecting a building with an indoor parking garage was high on my priority list. I sign my car up for 6:50 a.m. every weekday and 8 a.m. on Saturday. Not once in all the years that I have been doing this has my car not been waiting in the loading/unloading area when I show up at the garage. More amazing is the fact that my car is 99% of the time in the same spot when I arrive.

I started thinking how difficult it must be to manage and execute all the comings and goings in a 500-plus capacity parking garage, and I approached Ali Saeed, facility manager for SP Plus Corp., to learn more about his industry and the inner workings at the Malibu East garage. (SP Plus has a contract to manage the garage for the Association.)

For 11 years Ali has worked for SP Plus (Standard Parking, Central Parking and USA Parking merged in December 2013 to form SP Plus, the largest parking management organization in North America). He studied management at Northern Illinois University and knew some people in the parking



industry who referred him for his first job. Ali started as a hiker at the 900 N. Lake Shore Drive building, learning all he could in his two years at the garage. He was then promoted to hiker/manager at 253 E. Delaware, a 150-car garage where he stayed for five years. Ali says this was a busy but small garage where every car had to be brought up and down by elevator.



His next assignment was at the SP Hub, where he oversaw the 70 automated locations in the City. These are self-park garages where you pay when you leave and a gate goes up so you can exit. Ali was the evening manager. He dealt with issues ranging from credit card machines jamming to people breaking down the gate to exit. He stayed in that position one year before moving on to 2800 N. Lake Shore Drive, a residential building with 470 valet spots, which he describes as a similar operation to Malibu East. His company lost the contract at that building after he was there only 10 months.

Ali was selected to become our garage manager almost three years ago. He said it was a blessing, and the greatest thing that could have happened to him, being selected to manage our 508-car capacity garage and getting to work with such a talented and hard-working team. The average tenure of his

nine-man staff is six years, with the longest-tenured team member being on site since 1999. The garage team has three hikers in the morning, three in the evening, one overnight and two part-time. The talented team includes Shariq Abbas, Daniel Bacerra, Bruce Davis, Azmir Hilcisin, Ross Redelsperger, Woubeshet Tilahun, William Watson, Nure Yusuf and Yonan Zaya, the longest-tenured member.

I asked Ali about my car always being in the loading/unloading area when I come down in the morning and was told this process usually works like a finely oiled machine. Cars are brought down starting at 11 p.m. for those residents leaving between 3:30 and 4 a.m. The cars are staged near the garage exit, followed by cars leaving between 4 and 6 a.m. Later-departing cars are brought down and lined up on the ramp and the first floor. As the early cars leave, the cars further back in line are brought down to the loading/unloading area and restaged. The process works if people leave close to the time they signed up for. If your car is blocked when you come down, it is not the hikers' fault. The person who signed up ahead of you has not come down and left on time.

There is a lot of walking for the overnight hiker, as he has to constantly go up the stairs or ramp to get the next car to be staged in sequence. On weekends, residents typically don't leave until around 10 a.m. on Saturdays and 9 a.m. on Sundays, so the staging process is much simpler.

The garage typically slows down after 10 a.m. during the week, and the first-shift hikers are able to take a break. This slow period usually lasts until around 2 p.m. Cars trickle in and out but at a much slower pace. Evening rush starts around 5 p.m., but on Fridays the rush begins as early as 4 p.m. The hikers

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Malibu East events and meetings

Board meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 17

7:30 p.m. - Windjammer Room

Thursday afternoon discussion

Thursday, Nov. 19

2:00 p.m. - Community Room

(every 3rd Thursday of the month)

Dialogue staff meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 2

7:30 p.m. - Community Room

Leave event and meeting notices at the desk for the *Dialogue*. For more events: malibueast.org/calendar



Board meeting notes

By Neil Warner

Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2015

Attendance: Twelve Board members, two management representatives and seven residents

Presiding: President Marcel Molins

REVISIONS TO AGENDA

- 1) "Fire pump" and "Lobby renovation" were added to Items Requiring Board Action.
- 2) "Lobby doors," "Sheridan Road door" and "Seawall" were added to Old/New Business.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Joan Scholl

1) Financial statement

Operating and reserve cash
N/A due to early meeting date
Investment in units
N/A

2) Delinquencies

N/A

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1) Units – Carl Stahlheber

Committee is developing a master RFP for units purchased by the Association.

2) Communications – Thomas Vaughan

Some residents experienced a five-hour Internet outage on Oct. 9 because one of our vendors accidentally cut a fiber optic wire.

3) Garage – Martina Molins

The garage was 47 cars below capacity as of Sept. 30, and there was no waiting list for single self-parking. Three garage claims were denied.

4) Sports – Neil Warner

A new yoga class will begin Nov. 5. Beginners welcome.

5) Social – Sandy Chaet

No flu shots will be given at Malibu East this fall. Save the date: The holiday party will be Wednesday, Dec. 16 in the Lobby.

6) ASCO & Community Affairs – Sandy Chaet

Offer to purchase the mansion at 5940 N. Sheridan has been received. Greystar Development is proposing to build a 190-unit rental building at 5440 N. Sheridan, subject to community input and the alderman's approval.

MANAGEMENT REPORT – Violette Deschamps

Items requiring immediate Board action

1) 2016 budget

Board approved the mailing of the 2016 draft budget to owners for a 30-day review period. Owners can pose questions to the Board in writing or in person at the Nov. 17 Board meeting. As outlined in the treasurer's cover letter mailed to owners along with the budget, the proposed budget calls for no increase in assessments but increases in monthly

parking, bulk satellite TV and rented storage lockers.

2) 16K sale approval

Directors voted to implement the unit owners' Sept. 29 resolution to sell unit 16K for \$251,000, plus or minus prorations.

3) 26E list of work

Board authorized the newly formed Units Committee to fine-tune the RFP for renovation of Association-owned unit 26E.

4) 30D change order

Directors authorized an expenditure to modify the previous renovations in Association-owned unit 30D.

5) 8J change order

Board authorized an expenditure to modify renovations in Association-owned unit 8J.

6) Receiving Room Sunday operation

Directors approved management's recommendation to staff the Receiving Room on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. from Nov. 15 to Jan. 10.

7) Bedbug activity – billable charges

Board voted to bill a unit owner for bedbug remediation treatments because the presence of bedbugs was not reported to management in a timely manner as required by the Malibu East Bed Bug Policy.

8) Bedbug unit inspection

Directors invited the owners of a unit to a meeting with the Grievance Committee for failure to allow the inspection of their unit by our bedbug treatment company.

9) Bedbug activity #2 – billable charges

Board voted to bill a unit owner for bedbug remediation treatments because the presence of bedbugs was not reported in a timely fashion.

10) Religious display requests

Directors approved four separate requests from residents to display religious symbols/artifacts in the Community Room for specified periods during November, December and January.

11) Lobby renovation

Tabled.

12) Fire pump

Tabled.

Old/new business

1) Certified public accountant

Finance Committee will meet to discuss proposals from CPA firms.

2) Elevator project status

Anderson Elevator reports that the elevator modernization work is on schedule.

3) Emergency mitigation team interviews

Interviews with emergency mitigation companies have been scheduled.

4) Life safety: Secondary door sign

Nothing new.

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.

5) Life safety: garage vestibule separation

Vendor is waiting for a City permit before installing an additional set of fire doors in the vestibule between Lobby and garage to satisfy life safety requirements.

6) Life safety: water heater closets

Nothing new.

7) Reserve study

Treasurer Joan Scholl requested that directors consider the advisability of having a reserve study done by an outside firm.

8) Garage membrane: second opinion

Management will review the reports from two engineering firms.

9) Captain's Walk projects, generator relocation

Being reviewed.

10) Bicycle Room status

See manager's report, page 3.

11) Association-owned units

Association owns 22 units (including 16K), of which six are vacant or undergoing renovation.

12) Lobby door

Door will be stained a different shade.

13) Sheridan Road door

Lower-level door between tower and Captain's Walk, near Sheridan Road, will be replaced.

14) Seawall

Company is set to inspect underwater portion of seawall.

The meeting ended at 9:23 p.m. and went into closed session.

Board officers

The following officers of the Board were elected at the Sept. 8 Board meeting:

President: Marcel Molins

1st Vice President: Thomas Vaughan

2nd Vice President: Arthur Arfa

Treasurer: Joan Scholl

Asst. treasurer: Carl Stahlheber

Secretary: Neil Warner

Asst. secretary: Carol Beatty

"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*.



What's happening around the building

By Violette Deschamps, Malibu East Manager

UNREGISTERED BIKES: Management initiated an audit of the Bicycle Room in June 2015. Several notices and *Dialogue* articles have been circulated since then to alert bike owners of the necessity to register their bikes in 2015 in order to obtain the 2015 decals. Unfortunately, several residents failed to register or to apply the 2015 decal to their bikes as instructed. I repeat, the 2015 decals are restricted to the bike owners who registered their bikes with the Management Office in 2015; all registrations PREDATING 2015 are obsolete. As a result, if your bike does not have the 2015 decal, it has been removed from the Bicycle Room and temporarily stored before disposal to a charitable organization. These bikes are categorized as "repossessed/unclaimed" bikes even if they have a 2014 decal.

LAST CHANCE: We extended the bike recovery period to noon, Nov. 9, 2015. Past this deadline, management will donate these bikes to a local charitable organization; the pickup is scheduled for Nov. 11, 2015.

Please contact management with no further delay in order to retrieve your bike if it has been taken out of the Bicycle Room due to lack of 2015 registration and decal.

Several residents came to the Management Office to inquire if they could buy a repossessed/unclaimed bike before it is given away to a charitable organization. It is with regret that we have to say no to those inquiries. Malibu East is not in a position to sell any of those bikes, old or new. Selling or even donating a repossessed/unclaimed bike to an individual would be a conflict of interest and illegitimate revenue generation, and perceived as a favor. There is no other choice but to donate those repossessed/unclaimed bikes to a charitable organization. Further, those bikes cannot be retrieved by the bike's owner once picked up by a charitable organization.

Lastly, we are reiterating that Malibu East is not responsible for the repos-

sessed/unclaimed bikes donated to a charitable organization; the responsibility belongs to the bike owners who failed to register their bikes in 2015 and/or failed to apply on time the 2015 decals on their bikes, and/or failed to recover their bikes before noon, Nov. 9, 2015.

DOGS: Dog owners are privileged to have a home for their loved ones at Malibu East with no limitation on size or weight. However, please help us to sustain the harmony between dog owners and the other residents, management and maintenance staff.

Let us take a moment to revisit the dog rules to abide by at Malibu East:

1. Having a dog at Malibu East is a privilege given to residents to keep their dogs on the premises, up to two dogs per unit.
2. All pets must be registered with management.
3. All pets must be inoculated as required by law.
4. Pet owners must give a copy to management of the annual vaccination certificate of their dogs.
5. Dogs must be kept on a leash in the common areas at all times.
6. Dogs are limited to the common areas leading to the outside of the building, and from the outside back to the units where they live. They are not allowed in any recreational rooms, Laundry Room, sundeck, storage lockers, etc.
7. Outdoor common areas shall not be used for the dogs to relieve themselves; dog owners should use the dog run areas on Glenlake and clean up after their pets. I wish I would not have to refer to daily incidents resulting from dog owners allowing their loved ones to relieve themselves in the atrium, on ramps, by the planters, against trees and shrubs, on the lawn, and so forth.
8. A dog owner whose dog unreasonably disturbs other residents or visitors of the building or is troublesome to other residents or pets may be subject to the revocation of his/

her privilege to have a dog in the building.

Please keep these simple rules in mind.

TRANSFORMERS: ComEd contacted management to convey that the transformers manufactured for Malibu East had to be modified to satisfy the existing conditions of the electrical rooms and connection settings. ComEd is in the process of reviewing the fabrication drawings of the transformers with the manufacturer in order to retrofit the new transformers to the existing conditions at Malibu East. As you may suspect, returning to the "drawing table" entails time, effort and frustration for all parties involved. We hope to have better news next month.

Strauss recognized

At its Sept. 8 meeting, the Board of Directors unanimously approved a certificate of appreciation to be bestowed upon Richard Strauss, who retired from the Board as of the annual election after having served for 24 consecutive years.

The certificate of appreciation reads as follows:

"Malibu East Condominium recognizes and thanks Richard Alan Strauss for his sense of fairness, his dedication, his tireless work on construction projects and the budget and for his many contributions to the financial stability and overall betterment of our community during the last 24 years as a director and an officer of our Board of Directors.

"Presented with unanimous agreement by the Board of Directors, September 8, 2015."

Strauss joined the Board just two years after moving to Malibu East, and he served as assistant treasurer, treasurer, second vice president and first vice president during his long tenure. He was instrumental in helping to engineer a gradual increase in the Association's reserve fund from a low level to the much-envied level of recent years. Strauss also was the Board's point man for many major construction projects, including the garage and balcony/facade projects.



Community Calendar

By Neil Warner

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. Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Sat.-Sun. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

5917 N. Broadway
312-742-7502
goo.gl/MSZSES

EDGEWATER BRANCH LIBRARY

Check out their book clubs!
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

chi publib.org/locations/28

EDGEWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Current exhibit: "Voices of Edgewater" (stories of immigrants who settled in Edgewater).

Regular museum hours:

Saturday and Sunday 1-4 p.m.

5358 N. Ashland Ave.

773-506-4849

www.EdgewaterHistory.org

ST. ANDREW'S FOOD FEST

Enjoy Greek food, beer, wine, pastries and other Greek delicacies. Admission is free.

Sat., Nov. 7, 3-8 p.m., and Sun., Nov. 8, 12-5 p.m.

St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church (in the gym).

Corner of Hollywood and Sheridan.

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

whitecranewellness.org

THEATER / SHOWINGS

CITY LIT THEATER

"The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" by Nicholas Meyer

Attempting to cure Sherlock Holmes' cocaine addiction, Dr. Watson reveals to us that everything he wrote in "The Final Problem" about Holmes's duel to the death with his arch-foe Professor Moriarty was pure fiction.

Thru Nov. 15

Edgewater Presbyterian Church

1020 W. Bryn Mawr, 2nd floor

773-293-3682

citylit.org

JACKALOPE THEATRE

"The Raid" by Idris Goodwin

With abolitionist John Brown convinced that only bloodshed will dismantle American slavery, "The Raid" investigates the line between civil disobedience and civic duty, ultimately asking whether or not there's such a thing as justifiable violence.

Nov. 4 to Dec. 12

Broadway Armory Park

5917 N. Broadway

773 340-2543

jackalopetheatre.org

NEWHART FAMILY THEATRE

"Galileo" by Bertolt Brecht

Renaissance scientist Galileo happens across a revolutionary device that presents a prime opportunity for notoriety and cash.

Nov. 13-22

Mundelein Center for Performing Arts

1020 W. Sheridan

773-508-8400

goo.gl/G50KXM

RAVEN THEATRE

"Direct from Death Row: The Scottsboro Boys" by Mark Stein

An evening of vaudeville and sorrow about a 1931 legal case involving nine African-American teenagers accused of assaulting two white women.

Thru Nov. 14

"The Play About My Dad" by Boo Killebrew

A doctor in Gulfport, Miss., during Hurricane Katrina stays behind to tend to those who couldn't or wouldn't evacuate.

Thru Nov. 28

6157 N. Clark

773-338-2177

raventheatre.com

REDTWIST THEATRE

"Incident at Vichy" by Arthur Miller

Set in small-town France during the German occupation in World War II, Miller's play probes precisely what human beings will do when forced to make split-second decisions that will change many lives forever.

Nov. 18 to Dec. 27

1044 W. Bryn Mawr

773-728-7529

redtwist.org

RIVENDELL THEATRE

"Women at War" by Megan Carney

This new work is woven from years of research and first-person interviews with servicewomen who have actually laid their lives on the lines and have returned from deployment to re-enter civilian life.

Nov. 5 to Dec. 6

"Design for Living" by Noel Coward

This 1933 comedy follows three glamorous bohemians as they fall in and out of love with each other, alternately pursuing and repelling each other in an increasingly maddening love triangle.

Thru Nov. 22

5779 N. Ridge

773-334-7728

rivendelltheatre.org

SECOND SUNDAY SERIES

Piano recital by Lyka Takei.

Free. Open to the public.

Sunday, Nov. 8, 2 p.m.

North Shore Baptist Church

5244 N. Lakewood

773-728-4200

STEEP THEATRE

"The Cheats" by Hamish Linklater

A play about marriage and how it can get damaged when you forget to lock the front door.

Thru Nov. 7

1115 W. Berwyn

866-811-4111

steeptheatre.com

UNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

"Autumn Winds," performed by Chicago Symphonic Winds.

Works for woodwind and brass ensembles.

\$10 admission, \$5 for students/seniors

Saturday, Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m.

1212 W. Balmoral

Do you need to winterize your unit?

By Neil Warner

This is an updated version of an article that originally was published in the December 2012 issue.

As winter approaches, many longtime Malibu East residents begin thinking about how to keep their units warmer without running up their electric bills. It's a fact of life for those of us who haven't had our 44-year-old windows and sliding glass doors replaced or insulated recently.

Much of the cold infiltrates our unit through the crevices around the sliding glass door, especially where it meets the stationary floor-to-ceiling window. Those who still have the original windows in their units may also have the original weather stripping, which has deteriorated considerably. Even those of us who have had their windows weather-stripped again during the interim aren't immune to drafts coming into our units.

These drafts make us feel uncomfortable all winter long – and even more uncomfortable when we see our electric bill.

I've tried several different methods of winterizing my unit during the 38 years I have lived at Malibu East, some more successful than others.

One approach is to apply duct tape, or another strong type of tape such as a weather-seal tape, over the crevice where the sliding glass door meets the stationary window. You might also want to apply it over the crevice where the sliding door meets the door frame, as well as the crevices at the top and bottom of the door. It's preferable to apply the tape while the temperature is still well above freezing, as you will be able to get a stronger bond. The biggest negative with using duct tape is that the tape will leave residue on the door frame or glass when it is removed, although the residue can be removed with a solvent come spring.

To eliminate the problem of residue, Frost King makes a clear plastic indoor/outdoor weather-seal tape that can be applied in temperatures as low as minus -10 degrees Fahrenheit, is easy to apply and remove, and doesn't leave a residue.

Another product that may serve you

well is Mortite Weatherstrip and Caulking Cord, a putty-like substance that looks like a cord. You can press the Mortite into the problematic crevices, molding it into the crevices with your finger or the head of a screwdriver. One potential downside is that if you don't press it into place firmly enough, it can come loose and pull away from the crevice during the winter. Mortite caulking will also become brittle in time.

One product recommended by a resident is Do It Best's X-treme Rubber Weatherseal self-stick tape. At three-eighths of an inch wide and a quarter-inch thick, it is ideal for the crevice between the sliding glass door and the stationary window, according to the resident, and can be held in place with a clear tape.

The method that I've found to be most effective and user-friendly is the application of Seal 'n Peel Removable Weatherstrip Caulk. This is a clear caulk that is manufactured by DAP, and you can buy a tube for approximately \$10. (Make sure the tube says "Seal 'n Peel"; otherwise, you will have a difficult time removing regular caulk when spring arrives.) You can apply it either inside or outside, or both. If you apply it inside, the manufacturer cautions that you ventilate that room during application and drying – you may need to use a fan – because the caulk emits chemical fumes that could prove hazardous to your health.

If you choose to apply the Seal 'n Peel caulk outside, you'll have to open your screen, which means that you can't lock it into place for the winter. However, you can tape the screen to the opposite side of the door frame in the open position, which should prevent it from rattling during the windy days of winter. (I thank fellow Board member Carl Stahlheber for that suggestion.) You will want to apply the caulk in temperatures above 40 degrees, according to the manufacturer, so don't wait too late in the year if you want to apply it outdoors.

Before placing the Seal 'n Peel caulk tube in a caulk gun, you will have to cut off the end of the tube at a nozzle diameter that is comparable to the width of the crevice you'll be trying to fill. Once you've placed the caulk tube in the caulk gun, puncture the inner seal of the tube. Then position the nozzle at a 45-degree

angle to the crevice, and I've found it most effective to start at the bottom of the door and work upward, applying uniform pressure on the caulk tube as the nozzle makes contact with the door. Because the caulk hardens fairly quickly, including inside the nozzle, it is best to plan on completing the application within an hour or two, so you may want to plan what you want to do and prepare the door in advance, including removing any excess dirt.

I have tried a less expensive caulk product that purports to be similar to Seal 'n Peel, but it wouldn't stay in place for me, so I went back to the real McCoy.

When the cold weather comes to an end and you decide you want to open your sliding glass doors, you can remove the Seal 'n Peel caulk by simply grasping one end of it and pulling it out of the crevice. You may need a screwdriver to remove caulk that is stuck in the crevice.

If you decide to winterize your sliding glass doors, you will probably want to leave one of them unsealed – perhaps in the room that you use the least, such as the spare bedroom. Otherwise, you will have no easy access to your balcony or to outside air if you should need it. For example, if you should get any smoke in your unit, it will be much more difficult to expel it if you can't open a sliding glass door to the outside.

Another option, which is more expensive than the do-it-yourself solution but less expensive than installing new windows, is to hire a professional to insulate the windows. This will likely cost several hundred dollars per set of windows, but it will make a noticeable difference in your comfort level for at least a few years.

The Board of Directors has obtained quotes from two vendors, who have offered owners a discounted rate if a large enough quantity of windows is ordered. Windows from the two vendors have been installed in the Windjammer Room and can be inspected by owners. Prices and others details are available in the Management Office. Management is trying to obtain a proposal from a third vendor and will keep owners informed about this program.

Committee report**Dialogue****By Neil Warner**

The overriding mission of the *Dialogue* is to promote communication among the Board of Directors, management, owners and residents, through Board meeting notes and news articles about what's going in the building and profiles of building's residents and employees. We fill out issues with articles about community events or businesses. We try to keep issues informative yet not too dry. We'd like to hear from you if you have suggestions for how to make the *Dialogue* better or what we might add to our issues. If you have suggestions, please send them to the *Dialogue* editor or come to one of our monthly meetings, which is usually the first Wednesday of the month.

We have a dedicated group of volunteers who write articles and deliver *Dialogues* each month. You can find their names on the back page of each issue. I thank each and every one of them for their dedication to our mission. I learn a lot about some of our residents and employees through the *Dialogue*. I particularly want to recognize graphics editor Larry Rosen, who undertakes the big task of laying out each issue and coordinating the production with the printer.

I also thank our advertisers, who help to pay the printing costs. Please consider them for your business.

We have gradually lost a few staff members the past couple of years, so we would be thrilled to have a few residents join our staff. We particularly could use help with writing articles. If you know a neighbor who might make a good subject for a *Dialogue* profile, let us know. If you would like to write the profile yourself, that's fine with us; otherwise, we will consider your idea and if we decide to pursue it, we'll assign a staff member to do the interview and write the article.

Our website (www.malibueast.org) shows a calendar of upcoming events and it highlights a number of recent *Dialogue* articles. We also hope to add current management notices. Although the development of the site has been slower than we anticipated, we hope to assemble photos of the building and its amenities that will eventually be displayed on the site. Eventually, in conjunction with a new

web portal that Sudler is developing for use by owners of its properties, we hope that our website will become much more useful to residents, as well as a source of valuable information and a possible sales tool for potential buyers and renters.

We are reprinting the reports on the Dialogue Committee and the Sports & Entertainment Committee given at the annual meeting of unit owners on Sept. 8 because we didn't have space for them in the October issue.

Committee report**Sports, Entertainment****By Neil Warner**

The yoga class has been meeting continuously since November 2005, with the current instructor having been with us for nine years. Beginning in September, the class moved to Thursday evenings. New class members can join the class at the first session, usually the first Thursday of month. Beginners are welcome. The class size typically ranges from 10 to 14 participants.

The Fitness Room continues to get moderately heavy use. The committee requests that residents using the room return all free weights and benches to their proper places and report any equipment malfunction to management.

The Board has added decorative umbrellas in the southeast corner of the pool enclosure that have updated the look of that area.

The ping-pong table has been temporarily moved to the racquetball/handball court while our elevator modernization vendor uses the Teen Room. On the fourth floor we have the Billiard Room, men's and women's saunas and a tennis court. Once we install surveillance cameras, the committee anticipates adding some furniture or equipment to several of these rooms, including stools in the Billiard Room. The Board plans to renovate the restrooms on the fourth floor.

If you have ideas for activities that the Sports Committee might implement, either leave a note with your idea for the Sports & Entertainment Committee or tell management that you'd like to be invited to the next committee meeting, since this is a standing committee that is open to all residents.

News from Arizona**By Betty Mayian**

We promised to write a short article about our move from Malibu East to Sun City West, Ariz. Since we recently met with Malibu East resident Tracy Poyser for dinner at her motel in Phoenix, we thought this would be the right time to do it. Tracy, ever the excellent photographer, took a couple of pictures of Ara and me at our table in the Hilton. I haven't seen the photos, but I am sure they are better than the two official ones we had taken for our Arizona driver's licenses and our Sun City West IDs.

We are lucky to be situated in an area that has close proximity to all the stores, doctors, hair salons, etc., that we need. We do have to drive, but only for a few minutes and we are at most locations we need. Besides the one-hour drive to Phoenix to meet with Tracy, we drove about 35 minutes the day before to meet with my cousins, Richard and Judy, in Litchfield Park. It takes about 15 minutes to get to Ara's brother's home in Corte Bella. The other nice thing here is that, if you get caught going the wrong way, you just make a U-turn. I am now a master of U-turns.

After getting unpacked and settled in our home, we hired a plumber, electrician and handyman to fix a few things. This happens with most moves. Our next move is to buy more outdoor plants to make that area ours. Ara is very settled as he loves to water our grapefruit and orange trees and other plants that do not get automatically watered by the local association. He has adjusted better to the heat. It is getting better for me, too, but I had a tougher time.

We are also lucky to have our niece and her two children fairly nearby. This helps to keep us grounded. Watching baseball games and going to recitals. The restaurants here are OK, but we miss some of our old haunts, like Broadway Cellars, Summerdale and Nookies.

One of the things that everyone advised us to do was to join various organizations. Well, we did! The Illinois State Club, the Irish Club and the Czech

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Buying • Selling • Renting • Management

Your Sheridan Road Condo Specialists

Sheridan Road condos for sale:

6033 - 16J, 38B, 8E, 45F

Rentals also available



Helen Wagner

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

Malibu Convenient Food Mart

6033 N. Sheridan in the Captain's Walk

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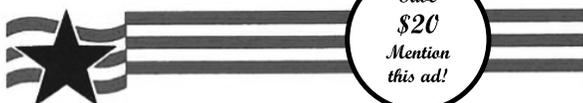
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Saeed keeps garage humming

(Continued from page 1)

usually have downtime until the rush begins. The evening shift is the busiest of the three. The plus for the hikers is that they are almost constantly busy.

The overnight shift has only one garage employee. He stages all the cars and then must remain close to the garage lobby for security reasons and in case anyone needs assistance. The downside of this shift is that on Saturday nights the garage can be very busy, with guests leaving well after midnight, and the complete load falls on one person.

The daily flow of cars is pretty predictable, but with so many cars in the garage, it can take a new hiker many months to learn all of the cars and the residents associated with them. Ali often stays around the garage lobby in the morning so he can assist residents if all the hikers are busy. Besides wrapping up any paperwork, he attends to other garage issues, such as removing assigned car decals and checking the hikers' time cards.

Ali advises all valet parkers to walk around their vehicle, checking for any damage, before exiting the garage. If any damage is noticed, it should be reported then and a claim form completed before the resident exits the garage. Claims will not be honored if the damage is reported later.

If a resident is planning a party, a guest list is appreciated a few days before the event so the hikers can plan for the extra cars coming in. If this is not possible, the staff would still like to know in advance how many cars are expected.

If you are a self-parker, you should blow your horn on the ramps and around every corner in the garage and keep your headlights on. The speed limit inside the garage is 5 mph. These simple steps will help with the flow of traffic and there will be less chance of an accident happening.

Ali mentioned that the garage offers two services that many of us may not be aware of. These services include courtesy jump-starts and tire inflating, two more reasons that our garage is a valuable amenity. The garage also has

GoJaks, which can be used to move cars around in case of lockouts, or when drivers forget to leave their keys in the vehicle.

Ali's advice for anyone contemplating going into the parking industry would be to have a lot of patience and enjoy being around people.

On a personal note, Ali was born in Pakistan but left when he was two years old. He went back to visit this year and met some of his relatives. Ali's childhood was spent in Schaumburg. He has been married for 15 years and has three children, daughters 12 and nine, and a son seven. He currently lives in Bartlett, and drives 35 miles twice a day to work at Malibu East. If you have not had the pleasure of speaking with Ali, he works late on Thursday evenings. Stop by and get acquainted with this great guy.

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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.

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News from Arizona

(Continued from page 6)

American Club. The other retirees are very welcoming, and we have enjoyed ourselves.

I will be going out walking – now that the weather is getting more tolerable. Otherwise, it is air-conditioned home, car and then destination. I believe there are more Illinois and New York retirees here than from any other state. So, we got our vanity license of “CUBNSOX” – this will let more people know where we are from. (Our preferred license plates were taken: CUBSSOX, SOXCUBS and CUBSOX.)

We send our best wishes to our friends at Malibu East – all our neighbors, committee members and good friends. Hope you get to visit sometime. Let us know.

Last chance:
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