

Malibu **East** Dialogue

January 2010

Your Communication and Information Resource

Holiday Party

By Sandy Chaet



Our annual Holiday Party on Wed., Dec. 16 was a huge success due to the efforts of so many. We served about 200 residents. Thanks to the Social Committee — Aida Calvopina, Greg Christiansen, Jovita Duran, Betty & Ara Mayian, Marissa Michaels, Barbara Murphy, Ilse Siegler and Ruth-Betty Spilky — for helping with planning, setting up and serving. Thanks to Jackie Ames, Eleida Gomez, Leon Le Roy, Mary Oleszczak, and Richard Strauss for additional help in serving. Thanks to the office, Chris and Rodica, and our maintenance staff for their efforts in helping with the preparations for the party. The food was delicious and plentiful. Thanks to all the people who brought something to share. Many commented that there was a good variety of food. Our residents seemed to enjoy the friendly atmosphere of mingling with each other.

Along with the planned refreshments from the Social Committee, donations were received from the following eight places. This helps make this party so special. Their generosity is very much appreciated. Please, next time you visit or order from them, say thank you!

Calo's Restaurant—pizza

5343 N. Clark—773-271-7782

Fireside Restaurant—bruschetta

5739 N. Ravenswood—773-878-5942

Gulliver's Restaurant—pizza

2727 W. Howard—773-338-2166

Leona's Restaurant—chicken strips

6935 N. Sheridan—773-764-5757

Thai Grill & Noodle Bar—pot stickers

1040 W. Granville—773-274-7510

Villa Palermo—pizza

2154 W. Devon—773-465-5400

Wing Hoe Restaurant—chicken wings

5356 N. Sheridan—773-275-4550

H.M. Wagner Realty—frango mints

Captain's Walk Mall—773-334-0200

Good food — good time!



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MECA board meeting notes Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2009



By Elaine Winans

Elaine@MalibuEast.org

Attendance: 10 board members, 2 management representatives and 9 residents
Not present: Cass Buscher, Martina Molins

OPEN FORUM 1

Resident comments and questions:

- 1) What caused the fire on the 27th floor? **Overloaded outlet with multiple extension cords caused the fire.**
- 2) Comments from residents of inefficient progress in installing the cable updates.
- 3) Questions concerning fire safety. **The board will reissue updated fire safety information.**
- 4) Compliments on the efficacy of the fire department and building staff during and after the fire.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Neil Warner

- 1) **Financial statement**
Balance on hand, cash and reserves
\$2,612,120.68 as of Oct. 31
- 2) **Delinquencies**
\$112,785.68 as of Dec. 17

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1) **Floor Representatives**
Eleida Gomez
Complaints about automatic door opener to freight elevator having been removed. **Was not working due to a currently unsolvable air pressure issue. This is a decades-old problem.**
- 2) **Social and Educational**
Sandy Chaet
Three employees will be honored at the employee party.
(See Hanukkah lighting, page 7.)
- 3) **ASCO report**
Sandy Chaet
The house at 5948 N. Sheridan is going to be demolished soon. No word on what will take place after that. The city has increased dumpster tax fees; residents need to recycle as much as possible to keep our costs down. The dumpsters with recyclables are not taxed, only those with

garbage. Life Safety Ordinance final date was extended to Dec. 2015. 6151 N. Sheridan Rd. park probably won't be open until early April. The Park District wants to give sod and other landscaping a chance to settle without disturbance. Electricity for lighting won't be energized by ComEd until late Feb.

4) **Garage**

Richard Strauss

Another letter will go out on garage construction.

Standard Parking report

Syed Haider, Mgr.

Claims

Denied: 3

Monthly parkers

Total: 447

Garage capacity

Total: 534

(Under capacity) 87

SPECIAL NOTICE
The board will reissue updated fire safety information.

5) **Sports and Entertainment**

Neil Warner

New Fitness Room opening Dec. 17. Work continuing on the auxiliary Fitness Room.

6) **Communications**

Neil Warner

The Dialogue finished 2009 with a slight profit.

7) **Life Safety**

Sandy Chaet

We hope the contract with Hughes will be signed by end of Dec. so can begin working on their report for us.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Chris Chioldo

Items requiring immediate board action

1) **Fire discussion**

The Board discussed the fire on Sunday, Dec. 5, 2009 in 27D during the Open Forum. An updated packet of information on fire safety will be distributed to residents.

Items not requiring board action

1) **Satellite TV status**

Discussion on procedures to gain access to units whose owners are resisting access. Scheduling prob-

Please keep in mind that the meeting notes are not the official record of the MECA Board of Directors meetings. The official minutes are generally approved at the following meeting and may be viewed or copied in the management office.

lems have slowed some work. Work will stop for the holidays on Dec. 23, but work will continue on a one-to-one appointment when possible. 259 units have been completed as of Dec. 15.

2) **Façade ordinance repairs**

Richard Strauss

A report is circulating that "critical inspections," (the most expensive procedure) have been eliminated. We cannot update our budget to reflect this until we get official confirmation.

3) **Laundry Room project**

Dean Lerner

Final estimates on installing updated electrical service are less than the six-digit figure previously estimated.

4) **Unit sales**

08B	\$250,000	Canceled
28E	\$155,000	Exercised
35L	\$172,000	
40B	\$250,000	
27A	\$375,000	Pending
15E	\$167,000	Pending

5) **MECA-owned units**

18D, 36E, 41K, 28E update

Dan Denton

(See article, page 3.)

The board will have a meeting with real estate agents concerning sale and/or rental of MECA-owned units and assignment of agents to specific units. Our policy concerning activity of real estate units in the building will be enforced.

6) **28E sale**

MECA closed on purchase of 28E.

7) **Real estate tax**

Richard Strauss

Our initial petition for relief on real estate taxes on Malibu East units has been denied, but we'll pursue it.

8) **Recycling update**

Sandy Chaet

A progress report on recycling will be published monthly in the Dialogue.

The meeting ended at 9:30pm and went into closed session.

Management report

Chris Chioldo

malibueast@awbworld.com

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



Please send remittance to:
Malibu East Condo Assoc.
% Sudler – 80
8401 Innovation Way
Chicago, IL 60682-8401

The management office will not accept assessment checks.

Parking garage repairs 2010: Everyone should have received a letter informing them of the next phase of the repairs to the garage that will commence Jan. 4. We expect this work will continue into May. The board of directors has concluded that while the construction is going on, all cars in the garage will have to be valet-parked. Therefore, individual self-parking will be suspended during this phase. Your car will be retrieved by using the ticket numbering system. Your car will be retrieved in numerical order by a hiker. No ticket, no car, no exceptions.

If you need to retrieve something from your car, you must go to the garage lobby, take a ticket. When your number is called, a hiker will bring your car down to you. To ensure safety, any resident entering any area of the garage (other than the garage lobby) will be fined \$100 for the first offense, \$200 for the second offense, and in the case of a third offense, the resident will forfeit parking privileges for one year and be fined \$300.

It is imperative that single and tandem self-parkers bring down their keys to the hikers before Jan. 4, even if they do not need to use their car. This will allow the staff to move vehicles to safe, non-construction areas. If there are no keys available, the garage staff will still have to move vehicles as needed.

As of Jan. 4, you will not have access to any part of the garage. Your security

access key (fob key) will no longer work on the second and third floors during the entire construction project.

Please pardon our dust during construction. Everyone will do what they can to minimize dust in the garage and in the lower-level storage room. You may want to cover your personal belongings in your storage locker during construction. Management will have protective tarps available at a cost for your convenience.

15-minute parking: The entire staff has been told to enforce the 15-minute atrium parking during the garage construction project. Once your 15 minutes are finished, failure to remove your car from this area may result in your car being towed away at your expense. No exceptions. Lincoln Towing is on 24-hour call and will be making more visits to the building.

Cable TV: For cable TV questions, please contact the following: Installation of taps, contact Brian in the Receiving Room at 773-271-2601; installation of boxes or channel package purchases, contact USA Wireless at 847-831-4561.

Please note it is necessary for USA Wireless to gain entry to your unit for installation of the taps. To reiterate, the MECA Declaration and the Illinois Condominium Act allow access to units to make changes for the benefit of all owners. If MECA is forced to seek a court order to enter your unit, all costs, including legal fees and court costs, will be charged to you, in accordance with the Illinois Condominium Act. High-rise condominium living requires cooperation and accommodation. We hope and believe that, as a resident, you will want to cooperate in completing this project.

E-mail: You may contact the management office or the board of directors for any reason, with requests, concerns, problems, etc. E-mail to: malibueast@awbworld.com

*Our condolences to the family and friends of
Stella Roberts and
Larry Fink*

Status of units owned by MECA

By Dan Denton



MECA currently owns four units: 18D, 36E, 41K and 28E. The board is looking forward to having these units sold or rented. To this end, the board has taken several steps to accomplish this goal, including holding an owners open house of these units Dec. 20.

Current status of these units:

Unit	Remodeling	Listing	Listed Mo.	Rent
18D	Completed	\$245,000		\$1,500
36E	Completed	\$255,000		\$1,550
41K	Jan. 2010	\$265,000		\$1,600
28E	Completed	\$250,000		\$1,550

*The hardwood floor on this unit has been refinished and the painting is in the process of being completed.

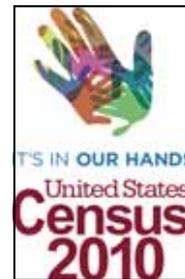
If you or someone you know is in the market for a great condo to buy or rent, come by and take a look. In addition to the owners open house, the board will hold a meeting with realtors and brokers in the Community Room at 7:00pm on Tuesday, Jan. 5. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss general issues related to the condominium and to discuss the board's plan to enter into real estate agency agreements to sell or rent the units owned by MECA. If you or someone you know has sold a unit in Malibu East and would like to attend this meeting, please inform Chris in the management office.

Census at MECA

By Jack Winans

The Census Bureau is looking for workers to be paid an hourly rate around \$17.50. They prefer to have a worker from the Malibu East building to get people signed up from Malibu East who are not registered with the Census Bureau. They request that this person spends a couple of days in our meeting room to assist all the residents who need to sign up.

See Chris in the management office for further details.



Holidays Around the World

Celebrate Edgewater

By Betty Mayian

Betty@MalibuEast.org



The Edgewater Chamber of Commerce has been trying very hard to build up the business community of East Edgewater. Chamber President-CEO Jay Delaney has a lot going for him — there is the willingness of the business community to begin to thrive in this slow economy amid the competition from the Andersonville neighborhood. Other organizations are joining them, including State Rep. Harry Osterman, and Special Service Area (SSA) #26 (with additional support from the Edgewater Community Council, Edgewater Development Corp, and Bryn Mawr Task Force).

We have begun to get some extremely fine dining spots here. At first thought we have Broadway Cellars, Uncommon Ground, Bananas Foster, Francesca's, That Little Mexican Café, and Indie Café. This neighborhood sometimes just needs people to get moving around to see what we do have. So, how about some kind of people mover? Jay's idea was to bring a trolley to the area a couple of times a year. During the holidays, the trolley ran on Saturday, Dec. 12, and ran along Broadway from Berwyn on the south to Devon on the north. Traveling along Devon to Clark and then back made the turnaround. Ara and I got on the ride after we split a wonderful gyros plate at Patio on Broadway, across from the Dominick's. Our trolley went south to Berwyn and did a turnaround to go north. We received our candy cane, literature, and a button from Tom, our trolley guide. Tom works for the SSA #26, a part of the city's support group to help local communities by giving money to beautify the neighborhood (the wonderful planters along the business streets of Edgewater are one example). We got off at Bananas Foster on Granville, where we considered having a cup of coffee and a dessert. They were giving away a mince pie morsel and a small cup of eggnog to go. The coffee needed a piece of freshly made apple pie,

so I ordered that while Ara ordered a piece of homemade cinnamon nut coffeecake. When they came, I put my fork in the pie (decorated with whipped cream and a scoop of ice cream). I tasted it and it seemed a bit salty. The "apples" were thin julienne slices and did not have the seasonings of apple pie. I called the waiter over and he took it back. A few moments later I heard laughter coming from the back of the restaurant. One of the chefs came to tell me that they had sliced me one of their leek pies. I asked if they often serve them with whipped cream. This was going to be something they talk about for a while. By the way, the real apple pie was



excellent — and so was Ara's coffee cake.

We got back on the trolley going north to see the entire route. When we arrived at the Broadway Armory, we got off to see what Harry Osterman and his staff had for the celebration. There were tables for refreshments and also for getting information about neighborhood groups, including Iraqi refugees. There were stands set up in front of a stage. The local public schools sent groups to sing, dance, and perform. Hayt School chorus did "Silver Bells;" Swift School did "When the lights all shine;" Peirce School had a group perform the "Japanese Snow Song"; and the Chinese Mutual Aid Association sent four lovely girls to perform the "Ribbon Dance." Misericordia also sent some dancers, the Heart Breakers, who performed to several Christmas songs. Jay Delaney and Harry Osterman introduced them all. A tree-lighting ceremony (See center-page picture) was to occur at 5pm, outdoors at the north side of the Armory. I had to leave at 4:30pm

and I wanted to see the tree, so we drove by after 6pm. The tree was dark; we were very surprised that they didn't keep it lit that night. These organizations had tables at the Armory:

Bosnian Herzegovinian American Community Center
Centro Romero
Chicago Math & Science Academy
Chinese Mutual Aid Association
Congregation Or Chadash
Ethiopian Community Association
Iraqi Mutual Aid Association
Senn High School Key Club & Latin Dancers

So many businesses participated in this celebration. Some gave items (like Bananas Foster); others gave discounts or coupons for goods. Still others decorated their businesses and vied for prizes. Some winners were Edgewater Antique Mall and Anna Held Florist. An art fest by Edgewater Artists in Motion was shown at two locations: 5501 N. Broadway and 6056 N. Broadway. Also announced was the free holiday concert from the Edgewater Singers at Bethany Lutheran Church, 1244 W. Thorndale. We usually attend this fine concert at the holidays, so we went and the church was packed. The hour-and-

a-half concert was the best ever and included flutes, guitars, cello and piano. One of the best ways to spend an evening! There will be a second concert in May. We hope this 20-year series will continue, but they may lose their conductor after the May event.

The trolley ran this summer, 2009, on the first Saturday of each summer month. The route was different for the summer season. The idea was to bring the folks from Sheridan Road over to the business areas of East Edgewater. The trolley ran along Sheridan, picking up people and dropping them at any destination they wanted along the route — Devon, Broadway, Granville, Bryn Mawr, etc. I was told by Rae Ann that there was an increase in people riding as the summer went along. Let's hope they do this again in 2010 and a lot more people take advantage of this great idea.

Support of the local businesses and the community organizations helps to make Edgewater a more vibrant place to live.

Community Calendar

By Betty Mayian

Betty@MalibuEast.org

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS



EDGEWATER BRANCH LIBRARY

CAPS 24th Dist. Beat 2433

Come and meet our beat police.

Wednesday, Jan. 6, 7pm.

(1st Wed. of every month)

Saturday Book Club

11am 1st Sat. of month

1210 W. Elmdale

312-744-0718

tinyurl.com/5155tl

EDGEWATER

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

1210 West Rosedale Ave.

773 561-6000

edgewater.org

EDGEWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Normal Saturday hours: Museum

open Sa noon to 4pm

5358 N. Ashland

773-506-4849

edgewaterhistory.org

WARREN PARK

Ice skating rink hours:

Wed-Fri 3-5pm & 5:30-7:30pm

Sat & Sun 12:30-2:30pm, 3-5pm &

5:30-7:30pm

6601 N. Western

312-742-7888

tinyurl.com/7tlo7

WHITE CRANE WELLNESS CENTER

Adult day wellness programs for 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 Wind in the Willows"

A musical based on the exploits of Mr. Toad.

It includes a Gilbert and Sullivan send-up.

Thru Jan. 3, \$20

8pm Fr-Sa, 7pm Su

1401 W. Bryn Mawr

773-293-3682

citylit.org

LIFELINE THEATRE

"The Last of the Dragons"

Lifeline's Kid Series: A princess needs to be saved from a fire-breathing dragon by a handsome prince.

Jan. 3 thru Feb. 21

Call for matinee hours and student prices

6912 N. Glenwood Ave.

773-761-4477

lifelinetheatre.com

PROFILES THEATRE

"Killer Joe"

Texas clan of greedy siblings hire Killer Joe to kill their mother for the inheritance.

Previews Jan. 8-13, Run Jan. 14 thru Feb. 28, 2010

8pm Th-Sa, also 5pm Sa, 7pm Su

4147 N. Broadway

773-549-1815

profilestheatre.org

RAVEN THEATRE

"Death of a Salesman"

A must-see; Jeff-recommended.

Extended Thru Jan. 16.

6157 N. Clark

773-338-2177

raventheatre.com

REDTWIST THEATRE

"The Pillowman"

A spellbinding drama with dark humor about a writer accused of doing the very acts depicted in his murderous stories.

Thru Feb. 6.

1044 W. Bryn Mawr

773-728-7529

redtwist.org

MECA EVENTS/MEETINGS

Dialogue Committee meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 20

7:30pm — Community Room

Thursday afternoon

discussion group

Thursday, Jan. 21

(every 3rd Thurs. of month)

2:00pm — Community Room

MECA board meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 26

7:30pm — Windjammer Room

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

JANUARY HOLIDAYS

January 1

New Year's Day

Non-religious and traditional celebration of the new calendar year.



January 2

Shinto:

Oshogatsu (or Shogatsu)

New Year festival; day to visit a shrine in order to thank the kami, ask the kami for good fortune, and make resolutions for the year ahead.

Orthodox: Feast of St. Basil

Commemoration of St. Basil the Great, father of Eastern monasticism.

January 5

Sikh: Guru Gobind Singh's

Celebrates the birth of Guru Gobind Singh, the last of the ten Gurus.

January 6

Christian: Epiphany / Three Kings Day

Feast to recall the revelation of the Trinity in Christ's baptism.

January 14

Chinese: New Year

The Chinese New Year is celebrated as the symbol of spring's celebration. It is celebrated after the fall harvest and before the spring planting season.

January 17

Jewish: 10th Tevet

Jewish fast day commemorating Nebuchadnezzar's siege of Jerusalem 2,500 years ago.

World Religion Day

Observance to create unity, ease suffering, and bring peace. Observed every third Sunday of January.

January 20

Hindu: Vasant Panchami

Celebration dedicated to Saraswati, goddess of learning.

Free photo paper

Contact the Dialogue editor for free over-size photo paper — 11x17 and 13x19. First come, first served.



Dear Etta Kitt,

My neighbor put a mat in front of her door. It curls and makes the hallway look sloppy, but I said, live and let live. Now with winter and the sloppy weather here, she's leaving boots, shoes and umbrellas out, also. It wouldn't be so bad if they were there for a short time while they dried, but they stay there day after day. She is not very friendly, and I'm apprehensive about bringing my concerns to her attention. I know that the MECA Declaration prohibits personal items in the common-area hallway, but I'm guilty also as I always hang a seasonal wreath on my door. What should I do?



Miss Apprehensive,

I can sympathize with your concerns about "bearding the lion in the den," as unfortunately, like in all communities, we do have some people with rather vile dispositions. I also understand your concern about appearing equally guilty; however, this is where common sense comes into play. We need to be tolerant of the actions of our neighbors, but not to the extent where they diminish property values or compromise our safety. A wreath on a door is not a safety problem, but using the common-area hallway next to one's front door as a storage area for offensive or dirty items is not acceptable. The hallway is part of your home also, and you have every right to complain to management when you feel offended.

Any item left on the hallway floor, including a doormat, no matter how pleasing to the eye, is a safety concern as it can impede the safe access or exit of firemen or your neighbors in the event that a fire fills the hallway with smoke. It also interferes with the safety of vision-impaired individuals.

Once again, I urge you to use common sense and apply the Golden Rule.

**'Town Crier' announcements
by Rodica Ilc**



We welcome all new residents to our building, including:

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

Balcony Man by Scott Virzi



Reach 500 units here plus 50 condominium offices!

CAREGivers You Can Rely On.



- Companionship
- Meal Preparation
- Light Housekeeping
- Shopping & Errands
- Bathing/Dressing

Call for a free, no-obligation appointment:
773 784 4024
 Serving Sheridan Road

Home Instead SENIOR CARE
With a little help from a friend.

Each Home Instead Senior Care franchise is independently owned and operated. homeinstead.com

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

Malibu Convenient Food Mart

6033 N. Sheridan in the Captain's Walk

Stop in for coffee – and.



Fresh pastries delivered daily

Mon/Fri 8 am to 9 pm
 Saturday 8:30 am to 8 pm
 Sunday 9 am to 5 pm

For Delivery Call: 773-769-5440

Sheridan Hair & Body Studio
 TOTAL BEAUTY CARE FOR THE FAMILY

HOURS:
 Tuesday 9:30-5:00
 Wednesday 9:00-7:00
 Thursday 9:30-6:00
 Friday 9:00-7:00
 Saturday 8:00-5:00
 Sunday by appointment only

6033 N SHERIDAN RD
 CAPTAIN'S WALK
 CHICAGO, IL 60660

TELEPHONE: (773) 561-6595
 (773) 561-6596

CLOSED MONDAY

Hanukkah lighting

By Sandy Chaet

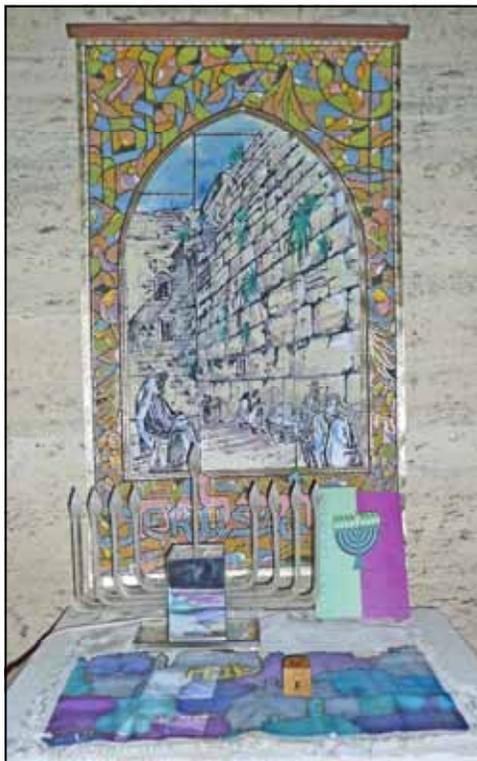
On Friday, Dec. 11, around 15 residents gathered in the lobby to light the first candle of Hanukkah.



After reciting the blessing for Hanukkah, the first candle was lit, and participants said the blessing for the wine.

Hanukkah songs were also sung. Potato latkes made by chairmen Ilse Siegler and Ruth-Betty Spilky were enjoyed after that.

During the festival of Hanukkah, another candle is added until all eight are lit, signifying the eight days of the holiday.



WANTED

Advertising Editor

The Malibu East Dialogue has a track record of many years in which it has been able to provide monthly news to our owners at no cost through income from advertisers.

Unfortunately, this year, along with everyone else, we are feeling the results of the recession, and advertising income has dropped drastically. We hope to at least break even this year, but it has been difficult and perhaps we have shortchanged our readers by dropping pages and limiting our coverage of neighborhood news.

I'm sure that we have "advertising account" talent in the building with contacts suitable for the Dialogue. If you are interested, please contact the Dialogue.

CTA meeting

By Kim O'Neal

Attending the CTA meeting on Dec. 1 were state Rep. Harry Osterman, Sen. Heather Stearns, CTA President Richard L. Rodriguez, several CTA representatives, Sheli Lulkin — former executive director for the Edgewater Chamber of Commerce and longtime ASCO president, and many area residents. The CTA is reviewing the Red and Purple Lines from Addison to Linden for repairs and upgrades. The Red Line is crumbling, and it is reviewing “the impact of doing X to get Y.” So the CTA has started a Red Line rehabilitation project to take to the federal government to show the project is shovel-ready. The federal government wants funding to go to “shovel-ready” projects only.

The CTA first needs money to do a study of the system and determine its needs. There are a couple of different pots of money to make this happen. The CTA is putting up \$3 million of its own money to make the project shovel-ready, and 48th Ward Ald. Mary Ann Smith has put in an additional \$1 million in TIF funds she has, that were about to expire, for this phase of the project. This phase will take about six months. A lot of decisions will need to be made, such as ADA compliance, security, lighting, and infrastructure — as some of the stations have braces now.

Once this phase of the total project is complete, it will take three to five years to do planning and environmental studies, as well as look at potential discrete improvements where there are urgent needs. There is \$20 million coming for these projects called “safe and dry” to close up all the leaks in the stations and make what repairs are necessary, and make them ADA-compliant. This will come in about the next two years. As apart of the “safe & dry,” the stores will be able to be rented with these repairs.

Osterman is the one who has put the most effort into CTA projects as the north system has been crumbling. Osterman stated that this project is very important to him, and he is optimistic. Many thanks to Harry for his commitment to this project.



As you can imagine, this project will be very expensive. CTA representative Michael Connelly — Manager, Program Development — Budget & Capital Finance — stated that this project has a \$50 billion need. He believes we have a pretty good chance for funding. Connelly believes that under President Obama, funding will be greater.



President Richard L. Rodriguez of the Chicago Transit Authority

After the second phase described above, the CTA needs to get approval for the federal government funds to plan the overall engineering and design and then start construction. This phase will take two to 10 years, with the estimated completion date 2025.

Other repairs already completed include Fig Media, on the north side of Granville, inside the station. They worked with 49th Ward Ald. Joe Moore to get the CTA to get that station dry. Also, Loyola repaired the upstairs part of the Granville station with a grant from the federal government that U.S. Sen. Richard J. Durbin had obtained, because so many students use that station. Durbin also earmarked \$10 million for the Loyola station.

Other studies being conducted include looking at whether we need stations at both Thorndale and Granville, and reviewing the use of buses and train stations as a whole.

For more information, visit:

The North Red and Purple Line visioning study presentation boards from the open houses are now posted on the Internet. To access the Web page for the North Red and Purple Line visioning study, go to <http://tinyurl.com/y15pu6q> (scroll down to find the links to the presentations).

The CTA will continue to accept comments, thoughts, opinions, and your visions until Jan. 4, 2010 at NorthRedPurple@transitchicago.com.

Eighth annual door winter decorating contest results

by Jack Winans

Our 2009 door-decorating contest took into account every decoration that was remotely a “winter holiday motif.” We did not consider spring, summer or fall decorations or anything that was placed on the floor. There are many decorations hanging that were interesting but not relevant to the winter season.

The decorations counted included wreaths made out of rope, twigs, dried flowers, evergreen and cloth. We found bows in every shape and size, with some hanging almost to the floor. Holiday greetings were spelled out in letters made of wood and cloth. Snowmen, stockings, Santas, calendars, French horns, bells, dolls, pinecones and poinsettias were the elements of many decorations.

Noon Sunday, Dec. 20, four days before Christmas Eve, was our cutoff date. We were unable to judge any more units after this date. All residents who accepted the opportunity to be judges asked to remain anonymous and we thank them for their time and dedication.

- Grand Prize—44H**
Spirit of Christmas—45J
Most colorful—38K
Best calendar—36G
Best homemade—38J
Best crèche—39D
Best Hanukkah decoration—24D
Best Kwanzaa decoration—NA
Best Santa—26G
Best stocking—37E
Best traditional wreath*—40D
Best non-traditional wreath—26H
Best use of bells—4L
Honorable mention—40A, 11C, 6D, 5E
**The traditional wreath is a circle of fresh or imitation evergreen boughs with a predominately red or crimson bow. It may have other accoutrements, but it must have those two details.*





44H Grand Prize



45J Spirit of Christmas



38K Most Colorful



36G Best Calendar



38J Best Homemade



39D Best Crèche



24D Best Hanukkah



26G Best Santa



37E Best Stocking



40D Best Traditional Wreath



26H Best Non-Traditional



4L Best use of Bells



40A Honorable Mention



11C Honorable Mention



6D Honorable Mention



5E Honorable Mention

MECA garage rates

Effective Jan. 1, 2010

New 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	9
6 to 12 hours	14
12 to 24 hours	17
Weekly	56

Parking coupons

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

Available in MECA 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.

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.

While the garage construction is going on, all cars in the garage will have to be valet-parked. Therefore, individual self-parking will have to be suspended during this phase. Your car will be retrieved by using the ticket numbering system. Everyone will need a numbered ticket before your car will be retrieved by a hiker in numerical order. No ticket, no car. No exceptions.

To ensure safety, any resident entering any area of the garage (other than the garage lobby and pickup area) will be fined \$100 for the first offense, \$200 for the second offense; and in the case of a third offense, the resident will forfeit parking privileges for one year and be fined \$300.

Restaurant review

By Betty Mayian

APART Pizza Company



This is a pizza joint that only does pizza (and salads and a pizza-style dessert selection). Have you tried to get your thin crust pizza cracker-thin? Are you yearning for a northern Italian/New York style pizza that you fold and insert in your mouth? This is the place. They say that it's all about the dough and they are almost right. It's really all about taste. Taste is my most important issue. Add to that the low prices and you have it all.

The pizza sizes are the 10" personal; the 14" that serves 1-2; and the 18" that serves 3-4. Here's what I say: the 10" can serve two for lunch — add a salad and it can be for dinner, too. Therefore, the 14" can serve four and the 18" can serve 6-8. It all depends on your appetite. The store has about four tables and maybe seating for 14.

They are trying to keep the prices at a reasonable rate. One way is that they give a 12oz can of soda with any 10" pizza. At lunchtime, they do two drinks with the 14" and three drinks with the 18" size. Another way of keeping costs down is the delivery charge — it's nonexistent for orders of \$10 or more. Think about the savings on gas and parking meters, etc. Speaking about driving options — there is a minimum number of spaces on the street, if you're lucky. We have been lucky at lunchtime. The other parking might be at the Walgreen's lot on Ridge. But, I caution you that the car might get towed. Therefore, go with delivery.

The APART Signature Pies have a great many delicious selections for you. The Cacciatore has all the pork bases covered with ham, pepperoni, bacon, onions, and garlic. It is so delicious for those meat eaters in the household. More meat in the APART: sausage, pepperoni and fresh champignons. Gamberetti has fresh tomatoes and shrimp. Funghi Rustica has sausage with onion and portabella. If you want the regular mushroom, try the Quattro Stagioni with ham, peppers, and artichokes with the mushrooms. The Francese has ham, Brie, and egg to make it French. If you enjoy tuna melts, have the Tonno — the tuna pizza.



There are so many vegetarian selections. They make it easy by having a "V" in front of the menu items. The dough is dairy-free and contains no animal products, so vegans can order safely. They will also customize the pizza and omit cheese products for your pie. A few selections have cheeses, like goat cheese, feta cheese, Brie, parmesan and blue cheeses. Others will use only vegetables. Special salads include the Caprese with fresh mozzarella, cherry tomatoes, fresh basil, nestled in fresh arugula; the Greek with feta cheese, black and green olives, mixed greens, cherry tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers; Italiano with spinach, red onions, walnuts and cranberries; Caesar with romaine, parmesan, and croutons; and Tirolese with romaine, diced tomatoes, bacon, and red onion.

The desserts are covered when they put sweet filling into the homemade dough. Fillings include chocolate with hazelnut, apricot, apple, and blueberry. They may have other seasonal fillings, depending on availability.

773-784-1550

5624 N. Broadway (at Bryn Mawr)
Street parking difficult, but near Walgreen's lot

Winter Hours: Mon-Sun 11am to close
Delivery free with \$10 minimum.

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Reprints of Dialogue pages are available in color on photo paper at the price of \$1 per page. Call or e-mail the editor with your requests.



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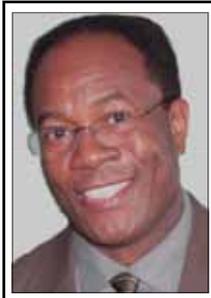
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Christmas tree disposal

Any resident who needs to dispose of a Christmas tree can do so by calling the management office at 773-271-1732. The office will schedule an appointment to have the building staff come to your unit and take your tree down to the loading dock so that it can be removed from the property. If you are unable to call the management office, you may leave a note with the front desk, and the office staff will contact you to schedule the removal of your tree.

Please do not remove your Christmas tree by yourself because you may cause unnecessary work for the building staff by leaving pine needles and tree branches in the hallways and elevators.

Contact the management office for additional information.



Malibu East Condominium

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Letters to the MECA *Dialogue* Committee are encouraged. Its staff reserves the right to edit those letters which it sees fit to print and to print only those with constructive content.

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