



TOWER TALK @ PARK TOWER CONDOMINIUM

May-July 2011



CONTACTS:

Office

773-769-3250

Fax

773-769-0047

Doorman

773-769-3083

Garage

773-271-8859

Market

773-275-9130

Cleaners

Recv. Room

773-784-3353

Health Club

773-769-1513

RCN

Service/Billing

312-955-2500

New Services

866-308-5556

WHAT'S NEW?

The original **Park Tower entry and mall plaza signs** were installed 35 or more years ago. They have definitely seen better days. Both signs have been redesigned. The mall plaza sign is scheduled for installation by the end of April 2011. The circle drive entry sign is scheduled for installation by late summer and will become a prominent fixture in the circle planter. Back lit lighting will illuminate the building's address and name.

On March 29, 2011 Express Signage workmen removed the mall plaza sign to make way for the new high tech replacement. The new sign will list mall businesses, highlight our market, and will have an LED to display time, weather, and advertisement. All advertisement will be approved and monitored by the Management Office. Keep an eye out for the new signs.

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New Circle
Drive Sign



Photo of sign removal taken by Mike Magliane

2011 ANNUAL MEETING

Every June, Park Tower Condominium Association holds its annual meeting to elect new members to its Board of directors. This year there will be three seats available, each for a two-year term. The meeting will be held on Monday, June 13th.

Owners should have already received a packet of materials via US Mail detailing the procedure and including candidate forms. If you are interested in taking an active part in helping the Association, please consider running. Although it is always useful to have prior experience from working on the various Committees that assist the Board, we welcome individuals who work well with others, have good communication, partnership skills and have talents in areas that might assist the Association: legal, financial, or even something more building-specific. You can also pick up a candidate application form at the Management Office. The deadline to submit these applications to the office is Friday, May 13th.

Please understand that candidates must be limited to people who own property within Park Tower; only owners will be able to cast votes. Each unit will have 3 votes; these votes may be divided between candidates as you see fit: 1 vote to each of three, 2 to one and 1 to another, or all 3 to a single candidate. Fractional votes, however, will not be counted, so you cannot give 1.5 votes to two candidates. Owners will receive a copy of each candidate's application and background material, all accompanying a ballot proxy, prior to the election, on or around May 23rd. Your vote most definitely counts, so please read the material and become a part of the process. Be

(continued on page 3)

BEDBUGS—THE TRUTH BEHIND THE HYPE

There has been a lot of attention paid to these tiny pests here at Park Tower, throughout Chicagoland, across the US and around the world. What should you believe?

First off, understand that although bedbugs are rising in incidence locally and globally, Park Tower is not infested with the insects. As of early April, there were only three units in the process of being treated. And going back from the start of this year, less than 3% of the units of Park Tower were treated for bedbugs. This number includes units that didn't have any evidence of bedbugs but were treated because of their proximity to those that did.

Also be aware that although bedbugs can be a formidable nuisance, they do not spread disease. The only ill effect is the body's reaction to their "bites", similar to that of a mosquito bite. About 30% of people have no reaction at all. The true problem with bedbugs is that they are prolific breeders; one bedbug can become hundreds in a matter of months.

The leadership of our Association, amongst Board and Committee members and Management staff, has worked aggressively and proactively to keep on top of any problems and to keep everyone informed of the situation. Education and vigilance are the two most important tools we have to prevent serious problems here at Park Tower.

Town Hall meetings have been set up to educate residents and to inform us of changes in procedures as newer technologies have become available. Tim Patricio, our building manager, has also provided his knowledge to help prevent residents from using ineffective means of prevention or eradication.

Although there are a number of products that claim to rid a household of bedbugs, many of them are ineffective in a multi-unit development like Park Tower; all they do is push the bedbugs away into other units. Fumigation products can have toxic fumes affect the outside hallway and other units, harming nearby residents. There are also inferior preventative products that do not live up to their claims.

Be aware that bedbugs can come from anywhere. A ride in a bus, a taxi, or even a friend's car can result in a bedbug hitching a ride into your home. Movie theaters, restaurants, airplane seats, hotel rooms ... it is impossible to completely insulate yourself from the risk, so it becomes necessary to know what to look for.

So what should you be doing?

The Management office can provide a lot of helpful material, but a quick look around the seams of your mattress is a great place to start. Any small black or dark red spots will indicate the likelihood of bedbugs. (These are either spots of blood, the bedbugs themselves – which are about the size of an apple seed-

or their waste.) They may not only be on the mattress; bedbugs will congregate where people rest. Your favorite chair, for instance.

You can purchase "glue boards", small sheets of adhesive paper that will get bedbugs stuck and unable to get away. These are not useful for extermination as it will not catch enough of them, but the strips are effective as a monitor. Check the boards periodically to look for any signs of bedbugs. Park Tower is looking to buy these boards in bulk and is hoping to be able to sell them to residents at 2 for \$1.

Similarly, effective mattress and box-spring encasements can be purchased. These will not solve a severe bedbug problem, but can prevent any bugs in your mattress or box-spring from getting out. (Keep in mind that a single feeding can keep a bedbug alive for well over a year.) Even better, however, is to encase your mattress and box-spring before you have any bedbugs in your home. This will prevent the possibility of having to replace your bed. Park Tower will be able to take orders for encasements in early May; prices will range from \$25 to \$45 each (depending upon the size and thickness of your mattress) and crib mattress encasements will also be available.

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WHAT'S NEW (continued)

Park Tower Condominium is home. It is where we have chosen to invest and live. It is in our best interest to maintain high standards for all who reside in our building community. The revised **Park Tower Rules and Regulation** booklet was approved at the March 2011 Board meeting and has been distributed to residents. Some changes have been made to accommodate and to assist residents in their daily living. Please take a moment to read and familiarize yourself with all of the rules and regulations pertaining to Park Tower. Copies may be obtained in the Management Office or on-line through the Draper and Kramer website: dkcondo.com

A special thanks is extended to owners who submitted suggestions and attended the special meeting conducted on March 29th to approve the 2011 revised Rules and Regulations. Please contact Management if you have any questions regarding rules.

USE YOUR PC AS A POLICE SCANNER

You hear the sirens, or see the police race past the building; fire trucks converge on a nearby building. What is going on? You can use your home computer to listen to police and fire radio transmissions and find out what is happening as it unfolds. Go to RadioReference.com and click on "live audio" and then "live audio home" in the drop-down box. A U.S. map will appear; click on the state of Illinois, when the state map appears, click on Cook County. A long list will appear, just scroll to find "Chicago Police Department Districts 19, 23, 20 and 24." The loudspeaker symbol on the left will say "click to listen." You will hear our local law enforcement and emergency responders as they answer to dispatchers' calls.

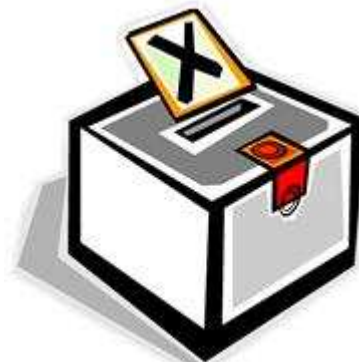
By, Robert Pierce

2011 ANNUAL MEETING (continued)

aware that under new rules established earlier this year, "no campaigning is permitted in or on any Common Elements or other Association property, including but not limited to the building's residential hallways and doorways, lobby, health club, laundry room, Garage, elevators, stairs and mall level common areas." This means candidates (or anyone on their behalf) will no longer be allowed to knock on your door or campaign in the laundry room, lobby, or other areas, except for authorized "Meet the Candidates" events held in the party room. There will be two such events. The first, on May 31st, will be in the same format as it has in other years; the second, scheduled for June 6th, will be a "meet-n-greet" evening where the candidates will be available for you to stop by and ask questions.

And, of course, if you wish to gain some experience before running for the Board, Park Tower can use your help. There are several Committees which help the Board (including Budget & Finance, Rules and Regulations, Home Improvement, Health Club, Garage, Club, Newsletter, and New Resident), many of which have need for members. Please ask a Board member or anyone in the Management Office for details.

By, Vince DiFruscio



use it as a preventative spray because it quickly evaporates and leaves no residue to kill any bugs later; neither does it deal with any bugs or eggs that are hiding in small nooks and pockets in your furniture or walls.)

It is also important to know that if you suspect your unit may have bedbugs, or even if you are concerned because, for instance, you just had a houseguest who has bedbugs in his or her home, you can schedule a canine bedbug inspection by calling the management office. The price for such an inspection will be \$10 using a trained service dog kept on site at Park Tower.

By, Vince DiFruscio

BEDBUGS—THE TRUTH BEHIND THE HYPE (continued)

If you see what you think might be a bedbug in your home, do not squash it. Yes, that will kill it, but there will be no way for an exterminator to look at a pile of what was once a bug and determine that it was indeed a bedbug. If the bug is stuck on a glue board, great. Bring it to the management office or request an inspection in your home. If you see one "on the loose", just pour or spray a solution of 90% isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol on the critter. That will easily kill it, even more effectively than household insecticides. (Unfortunately, you can't



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2011 EARTH WEEK SUCCESS

The Park Tower 2011 Earth Week event was another great success thanks to residents' participation and the extensive planning by management. Participation in the Park Tower Annual Earth Week is an important way to support "GREEN" living in addition to our daily recycling. Thank you.

TOWER TALK ADS PRICES

2 X 2 inch = 25.00

Business Card 3 1/2 X 2= 40.00

Quarter page = \$75.00

Full page = \$300.00

Contact the Management Office
1-773-769-3250

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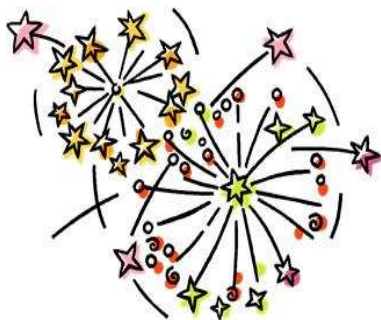
312.437.4310

david@mkdevgroup.com
425 W North Avenue Chicago, IL

NEW EDGEWATER BRANCH LIBRARY

Plans are moving forward for construction of a new library building on the same site to replace the 1973 building at 1210 W. Elmdale Avenue. Lohan Anderson, LLC was approved as the architect of record in December, 2010. Prior action by the City Council in November 2009 approved acquisition of the building at 6014-16 N. Broadway to provide parking areas. Preliminary plans call for the new Edgewater Branch Library to be a two-story, 16,250 square-foot structure. The project will be designed to achieve "Silver" level certification under the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. The site must be ready for construction by Nov. 16, 2011. A year is being allocated for construction with additional time periods for approvals and inspections. Improvements will be made to the public way. Incoming Alderman Harry Osterman is searching for a temporary home for the library during construction. The City of Chicago has built or fully renovated 53 Chicago Public Library branches in the past twenty years.

By, Robert Pierce



TOWER TALK WRITERS

Do you enjoy writing? You can volunteer to serve on the Park Tower Newsletter Committee. We meet quarterly to produce the newsletter. All articles are submitted electronically, therefore, you must have basic computer skills and access to e-mail.

Residents may also submit articles as a guest writer. All articles and their content is suggested for review by the Newsletter Committee, management, and the Board of Directors before posting.

Please notify the management office staff if you are interested in serving on the Newsletter Committee or submitting an article as a guest writer.

PARK TOWER'S ANNUAL JULY CELEBRATION

Park Tower will host its annual July holiday celebration on July 3rd of 2011. Join us on the Park Tower garden deck for food, drinks, music, and dancing. Annual fireworks are provided by the Saddle and Cycle Club. All residents are invited; this is a great opportunity to meet and socialize with your neighbors. Please sign up at the front desk in the lobby ahead of time if you plan to attend. Volunteers are welcomed. Simply submit your name to the management staff in the office.



The City of Chicago will host three firework shows along the lakefront on July 4th. Montrose Beach is the north side location. Park Tower residents will be able to enjoy both events from our garden deck.

SAVE WITH THE EDGE-CARD

Come down to the Management Office and ask about getting an Edge-Card. This card is offered for free by the Edgewater Chamber of Commerce to local residents. There are 51 local businesses that offer one-time or ongoing discounts each year. The current card year expires at the end of June; the new card beginning in July is slated to have increased benefits.



Here is a small sampling of the benefits offered to holders of the Edge-Card:

Bananas Foster Café, 1147 W. Granville: ongoing 20% off beer, wine or cocktails, Monday through Friday

Bryn Mawr Jewelry Company, 1125 W. Bryn Mawr: ongoing 10% off.

Castle Liquors, 1128 W. Thorndale: 1-time 10% off any purchase of \$10 or more.

Father & Son Barbershop, 5806 N. Broadway: 1-time \$3 off haircut.

Kim's Hardware, 6050 N. Broadway: ongoing 10% discount

La Fonda Latino Grill, 5350 N. Broadway: ongoing 10% off total bill

Loyola University Athletics, 6511 N. Sheridan, ongoing discount for seats at men's and women's basketball games

Moody's Pub, 5910 N. Broadway: 1-time, free onion rings.

Ras Dashen Ethiopian Restaurant, 5844 N. Broadway: 1-time free appetizer.

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ANDERSONVILLE MIDSOMMARFEST



In its 46th year, the Anderson Midsommarfest will take place June 11th and 12th. Join 50,000 of your

neighbors on Clark Street between Foster and Catalpa for music, dancing, delicious food and entertainment. Vendors will have crafts and wares to sell. \$5 entry donation goes to support the Andersonville Chamber of Commerce.

By, Robert Pierce

MOVIE NIGHT SUCCESS



The Park Tower monthly movie nights (Thursdays and Fridays) were a BIG success. Residents (children and adults alike) enjoyed selected movies throughout the winter months. The nickel entry price made it even more enjoyable. Popcorn, candy, and sofas were available for pennies.

The last movie was shown on a Saturday night which had a great turnout which may lead to future Saturday night movies for grown-ups. Watch for posting of the 2011-2012 movie dates and times.

A special THANKS to all individuals who volunteered their time to provide this wonderful activity throughout the cold winter.



SAVE WITH THE EDGE-CARD (continued)



Raven Theatre, 6157 N. Clark: ongoing \$5 off full-priced Thurs or Fri tickets (limit 4)

Steep Theatre, 1115 W. Berwyn: ongoing \$5 off (limit 1 per production)

The UPS Store, 1055 W. Bryn Mawr: 30% off copies, 20% off wide-format printing

Zipcar, 160 N. Wabash: \$50 in driving credit, waived \$75 setup fee.

By, Vince DiFruscio

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DATES TO REMEMBER

BOARD MEETINGS

May 9, 2011
June 13, 2011 Annual Meeting

7:30 p.m. in the Party Room

You are invited to all Board meetings.

BOARD CANDIDATE DATES

April 25, 2011 : Notice for Candidate Mailing
May 13, 2011: Candidate Application Deadline
May 23, 2011: Notice of Annual Meeting
May 31, 2011: Meet the Candidate Night
June 6, 2011: Meet and Greet the Candidates

OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesdays,
Wednesdays, and Fridays

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Thursdays

8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

You may also contact the management office by e-mail or by leaving a written correspondence in the lock box located in the lobby.

MALL BUSINESS CONTACTS

Suite 103: Senior Care Services
(Companion and Care Givers)
773-334-1112

Aynot Enterprises, Inc.
(Salon—Spa Contractors)
773-728-6486

Suite 103A: Healing Center of Chicago
Tony Hollenback, LCSW
(Integrative Care: Counseling for
the mind, body and the spirit)
773-255-9234

Suite 103A: Dralyuk Real Estate
773-275-8520

Suite 106: Dr. Shirley Roy (Internal Med.)
Dr. Robert Reeves (Adult Psy.)
Dr. Robert Brinkman (Internal
Med.)
773-878-5151

Suite 109: M & J Care, LLC
773-878-1032

Suite 110: Elizabeth Todorovic
(Real Estate Attorney)
773-271-2110

Suite 111: Blackstone ATM
(ATM Company)
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