



TOWER TALK @ PARK TOWER CONDOMINIUM

Nov. 2008 – Jan. 2009

The Bryn Mawr Bricolage



The Bryn Mawr Bricolage is located in the Bryn Mawr and Lake Shore Drive underpass. The colorful glass collage on the south side of street was completed this summer. The Edgewater community is fortunate to have this wonderful art as an entrance to the historic Bryn Mawr strip. Treat yourself to this eye candy; just take a walk to the underpass on Bryn Mawr. The Bricolage is a beautiful sight and a great artistic addition to the Edgewater Community.

PARK TOWER WEBSITE

Park Tower information is now available on-line. Log on at www.dkcondo.com; use the Management Association drop down button to find Park Tower. Click on Park Tower to reach website information for owners and renters. Owners may click on the Resident Login menu button for more information. You must type the initial of your first name and your last name, then enter the last 8 digits of your account number to gain access to secured owner website information. You will need to type your full first name if there are other owners that have the same last name.



**FROM THE PROPERTY
MANAGER'S DESK
PARK TOWER GOES ONLINE**

The timing is awkward, coinciding very close to the publication of the newsletter. However, I am excited to announce the launch of a website for Park Tower owners and residents. It is our hope that by the time you have this newsletter in hand, we will have posted or be very close to posting an announcement for the launch of this website.

Over one year ago Draper and Kramer identified as one of their 2008 goals, development and implementation of a corporate web site for their condominium portfolio. Since then they launched the site "dkcondo.com". The result is the most comprehensive web site in the Chicago Area for condominium associations that is hosted by a managing agent. The development of this website happened to coincide with a request by the Association's Board of Directors for us to begin exploring options for a web based resource for Park Tower and more flexible payment options such as online e-pay. So the management office staff has been working diligently with Draper and Kramer to provide Park Tower specific information and materials that were used to build the site.

I believe your Association's website will be fully active by the time this edition of Tower Talk is distributed. Your Association's page will have two distinct components. The first one is general information that is

(continued on p. 2)

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



SPOTLIGHT ON MALL SERVICES

One of the wonderful benefits of living in the Park Tower Condominium building is the convenience of the mall. The Edgewater Plaza Dental Group, Dr. Shirley Roy, M.D., and Lettuce Entertainment You have been in the mall since the 1970s.



The Edgewater Plaza Dental Group

is located in the Park Tower Mall, Suite 105. Dr. Tedford has practiced dentistry since 1981 and Dr. Basco since 1989. They purchased the dental practice in 2002. The staff is professional and friendly; each staff member provides caring services. Dr. Lani Basco and Dr. William Tedford would like to welcome everyone to their dental practice.

Office Hours:

Mondays and Thursdays
12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Tuesdays and Wednesdays
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Please feel free to contact them at
773-728-9200.

Dr. Shirley Roy practices adult and geriatric medicine and is Board Certified in both specialties. Her office is located in the mall, Suite 106. She has served the community for many years from her Park Tower office. You do not feel rushed during your medical examination, each patient receives special attention and gets all of their questions answered. Dr. Robert Brinkman, an experienced general internist with many years of practice in the community, will soon be joining Dr. Roy in the medical Suite. Now is the time for flu shots; call for an appointment so you will be ready for the winter and prepared to fight off flu viruses.



Hours as of November 10th
Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays 9-5
Wednesdays 9-7
Fridays 9-Noon
773-878-5151

Lettuce Entertain You Holiday Gift Card Offer Begins November 1

30 choices for them, free \$25 Holiday Bonus Certificate for you! That's how it will be this holiday season when you purchase Lettuce Entertain You Gift Cards for all the people on your holiday shopping list.

From November 1 through December 30, 2008 you'll be rewarded with a free \$25 Holiday Bonus Certificate for every \$100 in gift cards you buy.*

The holiday season is busy enough, and trying to find the right gifts for a variety of people with unique tastes just adds to that stress. That's why Lettuce Gift Cards are so perfect! With Italian, Thai, Seafood, Tapas and beyond, our 30 different concepts in the Chicago land area alone offer a variety of delicious dining experiences for the food lover in everyone.

Plus, Lettuce Gift Cards come packaged with gift-giving in mind. Each card is enclosed in an attractive envelope with plenty of space for a personal message, as well as a complete listing of all the Lettuce Entertain You restaurants. Gift cards never expire, and come in convenient denominations of \$25, \$50 and \$100.

Give the gift of choice to the people on your list this year!

Visit leye.com
Call 1-888-884-GIFT (4438)
Stop by any participating Lettuce location today

***Please Note:** \$25 Holiday Bonus Certificates are valid January 1-April 15, 2009, Sunday-Friday and on Saturday when seated or presented for carry-out before 3:00 p.m. Holiday Bonus Certificates are valid at Joe's Seafood, Prime Steak & Stone Crab, Eiffel Tower, Everest, L20 and Tru Sunday through Tuesday only. Certificates are not valid on Valentine's Day, February 14, or Easter, April 12. Neither certificates nor gift cards are accepted for payment of delivery orders, private parties or catering events. Frequent Diner Club points are not awarded at the time of redemption for amount of gift cards and/or Bonus Certificates used. Holiday Bonus Certificates are not valid with any promotional or Frequent Diner Club certificates. Submitted by Lettuce Entertain You

FROM THE PROPERTY MANAGER'S DESK (continued)

available to the public. The second component is limited to owners, and will make information such as copies of minutes, rules and regulations and other Association documents available at your fingertips. There will also be announcements, a calendar of events (meetings, etc.), as well as an ability to communicate directly with Management and the Board of Directors. What I have observed throughout the development stages is that not only will this be a useful resource, it will be relatively easy to navigate and use even for those of us with limited internet experience.

The work is not done. Once the launch is official, we will rely on feedback from you to shape this site into something even more resourceful. We hope to get all your comments, questions and suggestions to help consider what changes could be made to improve how useful the site will be to the Park Tower Community. Also, we are working on an online assessment payment feature and we are actually posting "digital minutes" for those of you who may not be able to attend Board Meetings. We hope to have a way for you to listen afterwards! We are aiming for these features sometime in early 2009.

REMINDER: THE ASSESSMENT MAILING ADDRESS HAS CHANGED

By the time of publication, owners should have received the official announcement that the mailing address for assessment payments has changed. For those owners who mail their payment with the stub provided with the statements, you do not have to do anything. For those on Draper and Kramer's direct debit program, you do not have to do anything. However, if you do online bill paying or issue payments through your own bank, you will need to be sure to update the payment address:

Draper and Kramer, Inc.
PO BOX 66089
Chicago, IL 60666-0089

By Tim Patricio , Property Manager

How to program your VCR to work with your RCN Cable Box.

Did you connect a RCN Cable Box to your VCR recently?

Are you having trouble recording now – getting blank tapes?

The Cable box provides access to 100's of channels, and **sends them as Channel 4 to your TV or VCR.**

Previously you could program just the VCR for the channels; but now, we have to do it a slightly different way, plus we must program the RCN cable box. Here's how to program **both units.**

STEP #1:

How to select the program on your RCN cable box.

Turn on your TV and RCN Cable box.

Take the RCN Remote, press the button **GUIDE** and find the future show and time you want to record. (Use the **DAY** button to go ahead up to 7 days in advance; use the **left and right Arrow Buttons** to scroll the time; use the **up and down Arrow Buttons** or **PAGE** button to scroll channel listings up and down.)

Highlight the program name, and press the round **OK** button. Arrow down to **"Set VCR Timer"** and press the **A Accept** button. This will store the Day, Time and desired Channel automatically. (The listing will turn RED on the Guide to verify you programmed it.)

Press **GUIDE** button again, to hide the show listings. This will instruct the Cable Box to turn on in the future, play the show you want to record, and then turn off. (The TV can be left OFF when it records.)

STEP #2:

Now program your VCR for channel 4 – **always CH #4.**

Turn on your VCR and switch it to see your VCR menus.

Use your VCR remote to **enter** the show's **date, time** and **channel 4** (you **MUST request CH 4 on the VCR!**)

You have programmed your VCR to turn on when the cable box turns on. The cable box will tune in the show's real channel, and will send it to your VCR as Channel 4. (It sounds goofy, but it works.)

By Mike Magliane



Don't Forget: Be Ready For the Holidays

That time of year is coming up again. Please be sure to say "Thank You" and "Happy Holidays" to our employees by contributing to the holiday fund. Checks should be made out to the Park Tower Employee Holiday Fund and either given to the management office staff or placed in the drop box in the lobby.

By Vince DiFruscio

Details about the Annual Park Tower Holiday Food Drive will be posted. Check the bulletin boards for information on how you can be a part of the spirit of giving.



Channel 195 INFO & 196 LOBBY View

Have you used the ***new and improved*** Park Tower Information channel on **Channel 195?** Grab your RCN remote, punch in 195 and check it out. You'll find helpful listings like:

- Meeting schedules
- Weather warning tips
- Building Projects
- Elevator Reservations – when the #6 elevator will be used for moves, etc. *(this can help you plan better times to do laundry.)*
- Exterminator Schedule
- General reminders
- Park Tower Directory and contact numbers
- Park Tower Market menu updates

On your RCN remote, enter **Channel 196** to see a view of the Lobby and Front Desk. This might be handy if you're expecting guests or want to watch the traffic in the lobby.

By Mike Magliane

HOW TO SAVE A BUNDLE

If you are tired of seeing your telephone bill increase because you need to dial those 411 calls, not to worry. Simply dial 1-800-YELLOWP which will connect you to Yellow Page operators. They will assist you in getting telephone numbers at no cost to you. This FREE service works for landline and cell telephones. Have a pencil and paper handy; you will need to dial the number.

Call 1-800-YELLOWP
Call 1-800-YELLOWP
Call 1-800-YELLOWP

How to Handle Trash, Discards, Junk, Electronics and Storage Room Items.

Food, Garbage and general Trash Chute Items:

Kitchen food scraps, soiled papers, dirty disposables, and various other trash should be put in bags, tied and thrown down the Trash Chute. (Those plastic bags from Dominick's, Jewel and Park Tower Market are fine for this. Just tie the handles together before tossing them.) If the item is heavy, sharp or breakable on impact, please don't use the chute. (Remember, it will drop for 3 to 55 floors before it lands.)

Glass Bottles (clear, green or brown glass), Plastic Jars & bottles (#1 & #2), tin & aluminum cans:

Please bag them together and empty them in the handy Recycle Bins on 2P (near elevator) or in laundry room receptacles on 1P. (NOTE: Please do not throw any loose glass or breakable items down the garbage chute unless they're wrapped well – they can damage the chute and create hazards for our maintenance staff.)

Paper, Cardboard, cartons, phone books, magazines, etc.

Please place them in the handy, large Recycle Bins on 2P (near elevator) or in laundry room receptacles on 1P.

Have Large Piles of Recyclables (like above)?

Please cart them down the 1P hallway into the garage area. There is a large Recycle Dumpster on the back wall– across from the valet stand. Use your fob to re-enter 1P.

IS YOUR JUNK SOMEONE ELSE'S "LUCKY FIND"?

We all have times when we need to part with our earthly treasures (or otherwise). Here are some guidelines for disposing of reusable hand-me-down items:

Working Appliance or Small Piece of Furniture:

If you have a small item that you no longer need - good enough to offer to a friend – you could leave it in the space near the Freight Elevators. Very often, your working discard may benefit someone else, and items left there can disappear very quickly during the day. Anything not claimed by residents is removed at night by the maintenance staff and disposed of at their discretion.

Broken Appliances, Damaged Goods, Oversized Objects:

Suppose you have a damaged or soiled item, something that may be too heavy, too large, too sharp or too unsafe to put in the Trash Chute – and belongs in a junk yard.

Here's how you may get rid of the item:

Carry it or borrow the cart to take it down the freight elevator and straight out the building to the rear loading dock outside. There's a large dumpster (around the corner on the right side) where you may discard it.

If it's too heavy for you to manage, call the Office and request a maintenance work order to have it removed. Usually there will be no charge. (They'll notify you in advance if any charge applies.)

Construction & Rehab Discards:

You or your contractor should arrange for removal of all construction debris. It should NOT go in the Trash Chute – regardless of size – and should NOT go in the building's permanent dumpster. (If they cannot arrange for removal, contact the Office for permission to use our dumpster. There will be a nominal fee per cubic yard.)

Storage Locker Room and Cages:

Did you know that loose items left outside of the locked cage, in the storage room, will be DISCARDED? The building requires that all items be stored **inside** your individual locker cage. It's a security and fire hazard issue. Anything left loose on the floor outside of the cage can be removed without notice. (Someone lost Christmas decorations by leaving them loose on the storage room aisle.)

Free Christmas Tree Removal:

You may call the Office and ask for a free maintenance work order, to remove your Christmas tree. If you do not have something to wrap the tree with – to prevent needles from falling off – please tell them and they will bag it for you.

(If you want to see it mulched, usually on the 2nd Saturday in January there is a mulching station set up at Margate Park Field House at 4921 Marine Drive. No exact date is set for 2009 yet. But please wrap it, if taking it there.)

ITEMS NEEDING SPECIAL HANDLING:

(Do NOT put in our trash anywhere)

Old TVs, outdated Computers, Monitors and other electronics, paint, cell phones, cleaning products:

Due to environmental issues, the above items are not fit for garbage or recycling. They will be accepted at no charge at: **HCCRF** (Household Chemicals and Computer Recycling Facility) located at 1150 N. North Branch Street, Chicago. Hours are Tuesdays—7 am to 12 noon, Thursdays—2 pm to 7 pm, and the first Saturday of the month from 8 am to 3 pm.

Used Batteries:

All types of **batteries** (except car batteries) can be dropped off at any **Walgreens** or **Chicago Public Library**. (Includes alkaline, disposable, rechargeable, button batteries, lithium, camera and phone batteries.)

Used CFL Compact Fluorescent Bulbs (curly ones):

These coiled bulbs should not go in the trash as they contain mercury. The used ones should be saved (unbroken) and dropped off at **Marx Ace Hardware** at 5830 N Clark Street or any **Home Depot** or **HCCRF** (see above).

ADDITIONAL RECYCLE-REUSE INFORMATION:

Our 48th Ward recycling guru **Ernie Constantino** has a comprehensive 18 page "Recycling Manual" available at 5533 N Broadway. It covers detailed handling for additional items like clothes, drugs, electronics, eyeglasses, refrigerators, vehicles, etc. You may pick up a copy, or have it emailed or mailed. Contact Ernie at ernie@masmith48.org or call 773-293-8411.

by Mike Magliane

Getting to Know the Park Tower Family

Idriz Dormic has been an employee at Park Tower since 2006 and works on our Engineering & Maintenance staff to keep the building running well. He and his wife moved to the US from Bosnia in 1997. His brother came first and offered to help Idriz relocate after the Bosnian



war. He was in the war for 4 years, working as a carpenter prior to that. The war devastated the country, and Idriz lost everything there. It was a very difficult transition, moving here with four children with all their belongings fitting in two suitcases. Idriz knew no English at the time. His first impression of the area was that "there were too many cars, too many buses, too many people," but has since gotten accustomed to urban life. He learned English at Truman College soon after moving to Chicago and has become very fluent, loving that he can talk comfortably with people here. Since moving here, he and his wife had another son. So their children now range in age from 4 to 21, with three in college and one in high school, all living at home. Idriz misses Bosnia, but has become comfortable with life in Chicago. It's helpful that there's a large Bosnian community in the area.

Idriz enjoys working at Park Tower. He started here as a temporary employee and requested a permanent position. He'd already had a lot of training in the field, so he was able to quickly get trained to do the work needed. It's only 5 miles from his home, so the commute is reasonable. Plus, "every day is something different." And he finds the residents here to be friendly. He enjoys spending quiet time with his family. He has a brother here in Chicago and a brother and sister in Canada.

By Vince DiFruscio

The next edition of the newsletter will be February-April 2009. You should be able to access the 2009 newsletters on the website at **dkcondo.com** if you have access to the internet.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Board meetings are conducted monthly in the Party Room at 7:00 p.m. Owners are encouraged to attend and learn about plans for the building operations. Upcoming meeting dates are listed below.

November 17, 2008

December 8, 2008

January 12, 2009

February 9, 2009

March 9, 2009

April 13, 2009

May 11, 2009

June 8, 2009 (Annual Meeting)

You are also invited to attend committee meetings which are posted on the announcement board.

Why'd the Trash Chute Need Repairs?

As you know, repairs on our trash chute began in October and should be complete within the coming weeks. There was damage from the 18th floor down, where the chute had been penetrated from people misusing it. These penetrations caused leaking that has damaged the surrounding walls and flooring in the service areas. Tim Patricio, our building manager, offers 3 helpful hints to prevent further damage to the trash chute: recycle, recycle, and recycle. "It's not just the right thing to do, it really eliminates the heaviest and clunkiest items that should not be going down the chute anyway." He also recommends that all garbage should be bagged and sealed tightly. Also make sure it fits comfortably in the chute; it's possible for large bags to block the chute. Also be aware that whether bagged or not, construction materials (flooring, drywall, plywood, tiles, etc.) are dangerous to put down the chute.

By Vince DiFruscio

**See page 4 "How to Handle Trash, Discards, Junk" for more information.*



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RESTAURANTS WITH AN ASIAN FLARE

Our neighborhood has many Asian restaurants, especially Vietnamese and Thai; but we also have the only Laotian restaurant in Chicago: Sabai-Dee. The restaurant's name is the Lao work for "welcome." Illinois' Laotian community numbers about 5,000, and Elgin has the largest concentration, due to ties with the capitol city Vientiane forged through the Sister Cities Program. Refugees from the war in Southeast Asia settled there in large numbers in the 1970's, benefitting from the prior contacts that had occurred between the two cities.

Visitors to the Sabai-Dee, on Broadway at Balmoral are greeted by the owner, Kevin Wong, who makes visitors to the clean and bright dining room feel at ease. He will invite you to be seated at one of the dozen simple, modern tables. You can order freshly prepared items from the menu, or see what looks good on display from the steam table, where they also offer a carry-out special: 2 entrees with fried rice for \$5.99. Photos on the back wall also illustrate available items.

Laos is landlocked, situated between Vietnam and Thailand, so the ingredients in many of the Lao dishes on the menu should be familiar to diners who know the cuisines of those countries. Expect less sweetness, fewer seafood choices, more pork and beef varieties, and higher spiciness. The menu includes appetizers, salads, soups, noodle and rice dishes and a dozen entrees, none priced more than \$7.99.



I tried the delicious grilled pork sausage appetizer – the portion was small and garnished with coriander, but appropriately priced, so I would recommend ordering a variety of appetizers and sharing with your party. The Thom Mak Hoong Lao (papaya) and Nam Kao (pork and crispy rice ball) salads are also recommended.

From the selection of noodle dishes I chose the Mi Kob Lad Nar; a generous portion of chicken and vegetables in a savory sauce over crispy fried egg noodles. On another visit I ordered the Red Curry with beef, this was outstanding, with fragrant coconut milk and basil aromas, and just the right amount of spice.

Tea, soda, and juices, including Asian favorites such as mangosteen, tamarind, and lychee, are available. Fruit smoothies are freshly prepared; I had jackfruit because la mut was unavailable, a Laotian fruit which reminds some of passion fruit and coconut.

Sabai-Dee: MasterCard and Visa are accepted, 5359 N. Broadway, (773) 506-0880, open 10:30 am – 9:00 pm, closed Monday.

By Robert Pierce

CVS Pharmacy OPENS NEARBY

The CVS Pharmacy is now open on the corner of Foster and Broadway where the Del-ray Produce was once located. There were some concerns regarding the number or the lack of stocked items when the store first opened. The store is now fully stocked. If you cannot find something, just ask. The store manager, Tina Fleming, along with other store employees are eager to assist you.

Store Hours:

7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Mondays through Fridays

The pharmacy closes at 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays

CVS Pharmacy can fill your prescriptions by telephone or you may drop it off for a later pick up. Of course, you can check the store out for sales while they prepare your medication.

By Betty Terry-Lundy



5160 N. Broadway
773-274-9337

TO PLACE YOUR AD IN THE PTCA NEWSLETTER

Contact the Management Office at
773-769-3250

Size and Cost:

2X2 inch = \$25.00

Business card 3 1/2X2= \$40.00

1/4 page = \$75.00

Ad prices are subject to change at the discretion of the Condominium Board.