



Park Tower News

August/September 1996

MANAGEMENT UPDATES

At the Association's annual meeting which took place on June 25, 1996, Paul Groeninger and Jay Stieber were elected to serve on the Board of Directors for a two-year term. With his accounting expertise, Paul Groeninger has been and will continue to be an asset to the current Board. Jay Stieber's expertise in accounting and law will also be beneficial to the Association.

A special "thank you" to Charles Hutchison, who has served the Association well over the past two years as 2nd Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Park Tower Condominium Association. And a special "thank you" to Betty LaDipo, who expressed interest in serving on the Board.

Much appreciation to Ruby Lippert, Laura Carl, Lorraine Meyers, and George Pauley, who acted as our election committee.

The new officers of the Board of Directors are:

Paul Groeninger	President
Marjorie Muzyczka	1st Vice- President
David Gantt	2nd Vice- President
Jay Stieber	Treasurer
Carlos Vargas	Secretary

The Board looks forward to a very productive year.

NO SMOKING POLICY: Please remember that there is now a policy that prohibits smoking on the first floor of our building.

This includes the Mall and the Lobby. Your cooperation is appreciated.

ELEVATOR CONTRACT RENEWAL: The Board of Directors has renewed our contract with Schindler Elevator Company for a three-year period. Our new contract provides for a reduction of our current monthly fee from the fee we were paying in 1993, reflecting a current savings of \$511 per month.

SKYLIGHT AND WALKWAY REPAIRS: We have received a detailed report from Delph Gustitus, the engineer hired, on his findings after conducting water tests on the skylight and Health Club walkway. At a special meeting on July 11, unit owners and Board members met to consider Mr. Gustitus's findings and recommendations. Repairing the skylight, the walkway, and the roof of the first floor (which is also the second floor deck) should be done at the same time, for technical reasons. There was discussion around whether the job could be done at less expense and also whether it could include extension of the Health Club space. It was observed that any structural changes in the building must be put to a referendum vote by owners. Mr. Gustitus is now to proceed to making up drawings and putting the job out for bids.

MECHANICAL DOOR IN LOBBY: The Board of Directors voted in favor of accepting the bid from Beasam Midwest, Inc., in the amount of \$3,944 for the replacement of the mechanical door in the lobby. The parts have been ordered and the anticipated installation date is approximately three weeks.

REPLACEMENT OF COMPACTOR: The Board of Directors approved the proposal from Kohlman Engineering Corporation to install a Kompac 6HD Compactor in the amount of \$7,675.

BIKE ROOM POLICY: Due to limited space, the Board of Directors voted in favor of charging a \$25 yearly fee per bike for storage in the bike room. It was felt that by charging a fee we would weed out those residents who never use their bike and therefore provide space for those residents who do use their bikes but have been unable to obtain space in the bike room (for which a waiting list has existed for years). Bike owners: by the time you read this, you may already have received a letter from Management. The plan is for ALL bikes to be removed temporarily so that the bike room can be properly cleaned and refitted, then new spaces will be assigned. If you have a bike you no longer wish to keep you may wish to donate it to a charitable organization for a tax write-off or offer it for sale through the Park Tower bulletin boards or Newsletter.

CD PURCHASES AND ROLLOVERS:

Funds from a Certificate of Deposit at the First Security Savings, Bloomfield, MN, expiring on May 30, 1996 in the amount of \$99,000 were rolled over into the operating account to cover curtain wall repair costs.

Funds from a Certificate of Deposit at the First Bank Mennonite of Mennonite, Wisconsin, expiring on June 17 in the amount of \$99,000 were used to purchase a Certificate of Deposit at the Atlantic Bank & Trust Company of

Boston, MA in the amount of \$98,980 with an interest rate of 5.75 and an expiration date of 12/18/96.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS: RULES AND REGULATIONS: The Board of Directors voted in favor of approving the recommendations made by the Rules and Regulations Committee to fine two unit owners for infractions of our rules and regulations.

RESIDENT REQUESTS: The Board of Directors voted in favor of granting the request of the owner of Unit # 2907 to remodel his kitchen and install new appliances and carpeting. (MANAGEMENT UPDATES is submitted by the Management Office)

UNDER OUR ROOF

OR, ON OUR ROOF, AS THE CASE MAY BE: You do not have to be a member of the Health Club in order to use the South Deck roof, which is open to ALL Park Tower residents. Take the elevator to the second floor and enter as if you were going to the Health Club, but then exit onto the roof by the door on your immediate right. Sun lounges have been placed on the South Deck for your use. (Many residents enjoyed the 4th of July fireworks from the South Deck.) No food is allowed on the deck by city ordinance as crumbs may attract rodents, insects, and birds, and city fire ordinance prohibits the use of barbecues. The South Deck roof is perfect for sunbathing, but it's also nice for sitting out on pleasant evenings.

A SUMMERTIME HINT: While, obviously, no medical claims can be made by the Newsletter, let us pass along this tip for avoiding Swimmer's Ear which appeared recently in the Chicago Tribune: If, after you swim, you suffer discomfort from having

water trapped inside your ear---which can also lead to infection---try using your hair-dryer to avoid trouble. Set the heat to "warm" (not "hot") and a low speed, keep the dryer an arm's length away from your ear, and slowly pass it back and forth across your ear. The ear doctor who is quoted adds, "If your ear is still clogged after you try this technique, or if you develop itching or pain in your ear, see your doctor." (Chicago Tribune, July 14, 1996)

TRAVEL TICKETS AT YOUR DOOR:

Owner Dawn Guerra wishes all residents to know that while she formerly was with North Beach Travel, she is now with I Design Travel working with Irene Degrazio-Pasquese. Dawn says, "Please call for travel arrangements. I will DELIVER tickets to 5415, 5445, 5455, and The Breakers." Phone: 421-6915.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLICATION:

"Evangelist-Pastor Vito Viglione, a Park Tower resident, wishes to announce the publication of another corrective teaching. This paper involves his own particular ministry, which is controversial, based on the teaching of Matthew 22:17-21, a Scriptural passage teaching of a conflict between Church and State. This paper is published and copyrighted by Jesus is Lord, Incorporated. Reprints may be obtained free of charge by calling Evangelist-Pastor Viglione at 312-728-9501." (From Evangelist-Pastor Viglione)

TAMING THE LAKE-EFFECT TYPHOON:

While some Park Tower residents prefer to keep their windows closed during the summertime, relying on air-conditioning to keep them cool, others prefer our altitudinous breezes and like to sleep in the fresh air. This can be a problem when the wind is strong enough to blow you out of bed. Here is a possible solution: Ace Hardware sells, in Aisle 13, for \$6.65, an expanding metal vent screen that fits in the open part of a window (which

you then close on it). The vent screen is 10 inches high and expands to 37 inches, which is not as wide as our Park Tower windows. However, if you position the vent screen so that it is at the end of the window that is opposite the head of your bed and the uncovered portion of the window is opposite the foot of your bed, you will be well-protected from too much wind while enjoying a cool and fresh bedroom at night. FREE AEROBICS GROUP: An aerobics group is meeting without an instructor (so there is no charge) in the Party Room on Monday and Wednesday from 7-8 PM and on Saturday from 9-10 AM. All are welcome; just show up.

SENIOR FITNESS GROUP: A senior fitness group meets at the swimming pool for Stretch and Tone Exercises and Aerobics on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings at 9:30. This group is led by Ruth Heller. There is no charge. You can call Ruth at 271-1537 for more details. NOTE: Even though this group meets at the Health Club, you DO NOT have to be a member of the Health Club in order to attend the Senior Fitness Group, as all are welcome.

CARRIER ALERT PROGRAM: If you are 60 or more years of age, you qualify to join an excellent new program sponsored jointly by the US Postal Service, the National Association of Letter Carriers, the Chicago Department on Aging, and the Chicago Police Department. Here is how the program works: Just call the Department of Aging at 744-4016 and request information and a registration form. When you register for the program, a special decal will be placed inside your mailbox so that the mailman can see it when he is placing your mail in the box. IF YOU DO NOT PICK UP YOUR MAIL FOR TWO DAYS IN A ROW, THE MAILMAN WILL NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGING, WHICH WILL INVESTIGATE AND CALL

THE POLICE IF FURTHER INVESTIGATION IS NEEDED. The Newsletter has checked with Joe, our Park Tower letter carrier, and he assures us that the program IS suitable for a high rise building. This program can be a life-saver to older persons who live alone. Again, the phone number is: 744-4016. Our regular mailman assures us that the program is suitable for a high-rise mailbox system.

COMMUNITY NEWS

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS.

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER: 38th Annual Air and Water Show, August 24 and 25 with water show from 9-11 and air show 12-3:30 both days; focused on North Avenue Beach, but the Blue Angels will, as usual, zoom past your windows. September 7, Central American Day Parade, 278-8354. September 14, Von Steuben Day German Parade, 561-8670. September 14, Mexican Independence Day Parade, 708-674-5838. For detailed information on neighborhood festivals and other big doings this summer call the Mayor's Special Events Hotline, 744-3370. The Democratic National Convention will take place in Chicago from August 24-29; if you wish to serve as a volunteer, call 214-1996.

FRESH FISH---VERY FRESH: A really interesting addition to the neighborhood is in the process of arriving as The Chicago Catfish Company and its connected Coral Reef Grill prepare for their grand opening at 5846 N. Broadway, right across the street from the Armory. You enter into a sunny little restaurant which (at this writing) is brand new and still being fitted out, but which surely will serve the freshest fish in town, because you walk through the Coral Reef Grill into the fish market at the back where farmed catfish swim enthusiastically in large tanks and can be selected while they are still swimming.. Actually the fish market is already sort of

halfway open and sells many varieties of fish depending on the day's catch and availability. When we were there, blue crabs and a half-dozen kinds of fin fish were packed in ice and looking good (only catfish are in the tanks). The opening price of catfish will be \$1.59 lb. live and \$1.99 lb. dressed. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday 9-8, Sunday 9-5, closed Monday. Phone is 769-9994. FREE PARKING is available about two doors south of the store---The Chicago Catfish Company has its own parking lot. If you are a seafood lover do check this place out and stay in touch with it, because fish doesn't get any fresher than when it's doing the free-style.

FREE MOVIES: Are shown every Tuesday at 1 PM at the Edgewater branch of the Chicago Public Library, located at 1210 W. Elmdale. Selections are "family movies" with a recent example being Annie.. Phone 744-0718 for current shows.

GARBAGE PATROL: Some day when you are feeling bored, conduct an experiment. Take a walk as long as you please along Sheridan Road or Broadway and count how many city-placed trash cans you encounter. Then hop on a bus and get off anywhere in Lincoln Park or Lakeview and make the same count. Now subtract the first number from the second, and see if the resulting sum isn't high enough to pay for your lunch. Is this experiment too time-consuming? No problem---just stroll over to Dominick's and see what's piled on the ground at the Berwyn Avenue bus stop on the east side of Sheridan. Chances are that, at least 50% of the time, you will find this area awash in banana peels, fried chicken bones, pizza boxes, melon rinds, and enough empty bottles and cans to start a recycling plant. What is badly needed there is a trash can, since people apparently like to snack while they wait for the bus and then chuck their leftovers and garbage on the ground around the bus stop.

For some reason, the City of Chicago does not place many trash cans in our neighborhood---a phenomenon variously explained by the Alderman's office staff. One time they responded to a complaint by saying that "the City doesn't put trash cans out because people steal them." Another time they said, "The City doesn't put trash cans out because merchants just fill them up rather than pay their own salvage company." Whatever the reason, we residents of Edgewater must live with the resulting mess. You are invited to make your complaints about this disgusting situation to the office of 48th Ward Alderman Mary Anne Smith, 5457 N. Broadway, phone 784-5277. Let us hope that many voices will have the power to lift us out of the slop.

HEALTH CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING:

A meeting of the Park Tower Health Club committee was held on July 17. Issues discussed included members' request for a paid aerobics instructor to lead a class now meeting without a leader; complaints about room temperature in exercise rooms and raquetball courts; and requests for additional equipment.

FREE PARKING IN AN UNPARKABLE

NEIGHBORHOOD: If you have ever tried to park in the vicinity of Belmont/Clark/Halsted, where hundreds of nifty shops and restaurants are located, you know how extremely difficult getting rid of your car can be. Now there is a solution so wonderful that it surely won't last---must be an Introductory Special---must be a mistake---but, while it's there, go for it. The new triangular indoor shopping complex just south of Belmont where Clark and Halsted come together---the one housing a Marshall's, a Linens & Things big enough for a suburban mega-mall, and a shoe store---has a multi-level parking garage which is, at least for the moment, FREE. And the day we were there it was also EMPTY, like a sweet secret few have yet discovered. Be advised. It can't last. Go now.

CONTEMPLATION POINT: For some time, residents of the Edgewater area have been asking the Chicago Park District to enhance our extreme north end of Lincoln Park with plantings equal to those closer in to the center city. Residents are represented in this by ASCO, the Association of Sheridan Condo-Coop Owners, which has most recently requested a brick-paved bike path turnaround just north of Bryn Mawr Avenue in an area where residents would be able to sit peacefully and where there would be a chess pavilion and exercise bars. ASCO's philosophy is that the area would attract runners and bikers and so would provide enough traffic that "sitters" would enjoy security while still being in a quiet environment. The Chicago Park District has responded by proposing Contemplation Point, a seating area "designed for people to celebrate or observe such experiences as birth, marriage, or death." Contemplation Point would go just north of Bryn Mawr on the lakefront and ASCO fears that it would, first, be of less day-to-day use to local residents and, second, would potentially cause parking and traffic problems as it attracted groups taking advantage of its ceremonial purpose. A meeting was held on July 9 without agreement being reached, and the matter is pending.

LAKEWOOD-BALMORAL COMMUNITY

YARD SALE: This annual event, so close to home for us, is worth special mention. Every year on the first Saturday following Labor Day (this year that's Saturday, September 7) owners of the lovely big old houses just west of Broadway hold a gargantuan community yard sale. The rain date is always the following Saturday (this year, September 14). All along Magnolia, Lakewood, and Wayne, between Foster and Bryn Mawr, homeowners set up in their front yards and on their front porches. It is pleasant at any time to stroll along these streets under big old shady trees, admiring houses which often have been

beautifully restored. But it is even more fun at the annual Lakewood-Balmoral Yard Sale, when, as you stroll, you can also enjoy the festive atmosphere, the crowds, the visiting, and most of all the browsing. If you are even faintly interested in books, go for that reason even if you're not a yard-sale aficionado, as there will be thousands of used books for sale for as little as ten cents. And, if you do like yard sales, you will love this event, which offers dozens and dozens of yard sales in a total 12-block area within easy walking distance of Park Tower. These are nice homes, so their junk is good junk. This is a ton of fun. Take your shopping cart and get there early. The sale runs from 9 to 5 but by noon most of the good stuff will be gone.

A BIG TELEPHONE CHANGE IS COMING

TO US ALL: As of October 12, 1996, our telephone area code is going to change from 312 to 773. Persons in downtown Chicago will have to use the area code 773 to call Park Tower! The boundaries are: North Avenue on the north, Western Avenue on the west, 35th Street on the south, and Lake Michigan on the east. Inside that boundary, the area code remains 312. To the north of it (that's us) the new code will be 773. According to an article in the July 3 issue of Inside (a Chicago neighborhood newspaper), "residents will have a three month grace period, ending January 11, during which both area codes [312 and 773] will be in operation. The new area code will not change seven-digit phone numbers or calling rates for any customer. Also, wireless customers will not be required to change to the new 773 area code. For a smoother transition into using 773, Ameritech advises its customers to notify relatives, friends, customers, and business associates of their area code change and to reprogram automatic dialers, speed calling lists, computer modems, cellular phones, pagers, and alarm systems, in addition to revising checks, business cards,

stationery....". (From Inside, July 3; also confirmed with Ameritech)

Let's Eat

(This is the first appearance of Let's Eat, the contribution of two Park Tower owners who wish to remain anonymous but who have volunteered to be the official restaurant reviewers of the Newsletter. We hope that Let's Eat will be a regular feature.)

"ON THE BEACH: If you have gotten hungry or thirsty while you were out walking along the beach, the two stands at Foster Avenue now offer some good possibilities. Captain Nemo's has the concession stand at the present bathhouse. Though they do not offer the delicious home-made soups available at their regular restaurants, they do offer a good selection of their great submarine sandwiches. They have a range of other beach-fare items also. The stand is open from 10 AM until 7 PM.

If you want something more interesting to drink, walk over to the blue and white stand by the parking lot that is now operated by Surf City Squeeze. If this name is unfamiliar, you may be surprised to know that the company has over 130 stores located in 22 states. They offer Smoothies, Power Smoothies, and Chillers, in addition to lemonade and fresh-squeezed juices. Smoothies and Power Smoothies are creamy blends of fruits, juice, and a non-dairy mix combined with your choice of protein powder, carbo powder, lecithin, wheat germ, bee pollen, ginseng, brewer's yeast, spirulina, and wheatgrass. Chillers are refreshing slushes made with fresh fruit if you want something more mundane but nonetheless tasty.

EINSTEIN BAGELS: What Clark Street has been waiting for---a coffee house with bagels, great bagels! The 16 varieties of bagels are prepared on the premises and cost \$4.95 for a baker's dozen if you are buying a bag to take out. Top your bagel with any of six cream cheeses, five "lite" cream cheeses, or a non-dairy carrot hummos spread. If you are there for breakfast, the fresh-squeezed orange juice is a real plus. You may turn your bagel into a sandwich (\$3-\$5) and combine it with a tasty soup and/or salad if you are there for lunch or supper. The coffees are fresh and rich, as they must be to compete with the other coffee houses on Clark Street. You can spend many relaxing moments here in the airy space or on the homey patio in the back during summertime hours. Einstein Bagels, 5318 N. Clark, 506-9888." (Submitted by Let's Eat)

HOW TO EAT WITHOUT MUCH COOKING IN THE SUMMERTIME

Even people who enjoy cooking don't necessarily love meal preparation when the days are warm and the enticements are many. Short of going to restaurants every day or existing on ordered-out pizza, just how does one manage without cooking? One answer is to prepare a lot of something you like that will only improve if it sits in the refrigerator for a few days---then just keep dipping into it. For example, make GAZPACHO, the popular Spanish summertime soup that is served cold. It couldn't be easier. Theoretically you can chop everything by hand, but if you have a blender or food processor, in five minutes you can make enough gazpacho to last for days, and the longer it sits in your refrigerator, the better it gets. All you need is a medium onion, a medium green pepper, a medium cucumber, 3 or 4 medium tomatoes, from 1-5 cloves of garlic depending on your preference, a 48-oz. can of tomato juice, about 1/4 cup each real olive oil and red wine vinegar, 1 tsp.

salt, 1 tsp. comino (ground cumin) or chili powder, and 1/2 tsp. ground hot pepper (optional). Directions: Into a blender or food processor put the cut-up vegetables with enough tomato juice to make the machine chop everything coarsely (you don't want mush). You may have to do this in two batches. Add everything else (oil, vinegar, salt, comino, hot pepper) and the rest of the tomato juice until you get the consistency you like (if you accidentally get it too thin, just quickly grind up some more vegetables and add them, Just wing it. There's no way you can mess this up.) Taste the gazpacho and add more of the seasonings and oil and vinegar until it's right, but remember that the flavor will intensify as the gazpacho sits in the refrigerator, where in any case you should let it repose for 24 hours before you eat it. You can refer to your supply as the occasion demands. Serve the gazpacho icy cold with croutons or crackers and save the \$4.75 or so per bowl you would be paying in a River North restaurant.

To go with your Gazpacho, have that standby of Italian street festivals, Peaches in Wine: slice peaches into a glass then fill the glass with wine. Leave in the refrigerator while you eat dinner. For dessert, first eat the peaches then drink the wine.

Another way to get things done ahead of time (and a useful trick if you often make stir-fry and like rice with it) is to cook a big pot of rice all at once and then freeze individual portions of cooked rice in plastic sandwich bags. When you want some rice, just zap a portion in the microwave.

Finally, don't forget Edgewater Market, where you can buy a rotisserie chicken and a variety of deli salads that will turn your refrigerator into a smorgasbord to which you can return as often as you wish.

AS A PUBLIC SERVICE the Newsletter will now tell you how to eat a mango without having to take a bath afterwards (this has been an unusually good year for mangoes with huge, luscious fruit at unbelievably low prices, but those native to Midwestern climates are sometimes puzzled by the juiciness of mangoes). Here's what you do: after washing the mango, take a sharp serrated paring knife and cut the mango in half lengthwise so that the knife goes all the way to the seed. Now hold the mango over the sink and give the two halves a sharp twist. They will come apart with the seed in one half. Take the point of your knife and cut around and under the seed. You can now eat the mango on the half-shell, with a spoon (use a serrated grapefruit spoon if you have one). At the end, you will have to hold over the kitchen sink to enjoy the best part, which is sucking the sweetest mango flesh from the seed; there is no other way.

***Overheard on a police-band scanner radio and quoted in the Reader:

Voice #1: We have fourteen boys in a parking lot with guns, and they are shooting.

Voice #2: We do not copy. Is that four teens or fourteen?

Voice #1: Fourteen, I say again, one-four.

Voice #2: (Pause) Did you want air strikes, or what? (Reader, July 19)

*** HOLLYWOOD'S FIRST CHOICES: How the Greatest Casting Decisions Were Made (Crown Trade Paperbacks, 1994) is a fascinating little book naming the actors and actresses that "almost" got parts now made famous by others. Did you know that Louis B. Mayer's first choice for Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz was not Judy Garland but Shirley Temple? Or that before Marlon Brando was offered the role of Don Corleone in The Godfather, Sir Laurence Olivier turned it down? Or that both Bette Davis and Katherine Hepburn were considered for Scarlett O'Hara in Gone With the Wind before Vivien Leigh

got the part? Or that Grace Kelly was lined up to play Maggie in Cat on Hot Tin Roof (the role that went to Elizabeth Taylor) and then didn't only because she married the Prince of Monaco just before the film was shot? Both American Gigolo and An Officer and a Gentleman were developed for John Travolta, who ended up starring in neither. Al Pacino was originally scheduled to play Kovic in Born on the Fourth of July and backed out, leaving the field to a relative newcomer, Tom Cruise. Tina Turner was approached for the part of Shug in The Color Purple; Turner refused the role. And, last but not least, the original trio intended for Some Like It Hot was not Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis, and Jack Lemmon but Bob Hope, Danny Kaye, and Mitzi Gaynor. Unbelievable.

Tel.: 275-8520

Elisabeth Würmer
REAL ESTATE BROKER
Sales & Rentals

Office located at:
PARK TOWER MALL

5419 N. SHERIDAN ROAD
CHICAGO, IL 60640

LAST BUT NOT LEAST: Board of Directors meetings will be held on the following dates: August 6, 7:30 PM, Party Room; August 27, 6:30 PM, Management Office, and September 24, 6:30 PM, Management Office. NEW: You can now stop by the Doorman's desk or the Management Office on the Friday before each meeting to pick up a copy of that meeting's agenda. All owners are urged to attend. Just as the Channel 2 news anchor says every night, "That's your money."

*The Park Tower Newsletter is written by
Nora Jocus, formatted by Edward Jocus.*