

# ParkTowerNews

DECEMBER 1994/JANUARY 1995

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through Park Tower  
There were signs of excitement that holiday hour  
The kiddies were dreaming of dolls and Nintendos;  
The spiders were sweetly asleep on the windows,  
All eight elevators asleep in their shafts,  
All the keyholes were whistling with breeze and drafts,  
And hurricanes bellowed inside of the walls  
And the windows were leaking like Niagara Falls  
While Foster kept smiling and never complained  
As he greeted some nine hundred people by name  
And Sada kept scrubbing and scrubbing the lobby  
As if scrubbing the lobbies were his favorite hobby;  
When up on the rooftop we heard such a fuss  
That Chuck and John started to swear and to cuss.  
We thought it was Cupples a-parking his scaffold,  
Then saw that it wasn't, and so, we were baffled.  
A jocular fellow had come in a sleigh  
Bringing presents to all, Season's Greetings, Hooray!  
New boilers, new pavements, new ceilings, new paint,  
And things that should be inexpensive, but ain't;  
Ten carloads of Windex and one other car-  
Load of gadgets that nobody knows what they are,  
And new elevators and rugs for the hall,  
New bills and assessments; we knew it was Paul.  
But just as he started to hand out the stuff  
We heard a voice very no-nonsense and tough:  
"You can't park there!" it shouted as loud as it cared to  
So we knew right away we had heard from Roberto  
Who always protects us from trucks that might stop  
By roaring and yelling and calling a cop.  
Just then, here came Santa, and soon he began  
To rent an apartment from 'Lizbeth and Ann;  
But before he could fasten his sleigh down to park it,  
His reindeer had run into Edgewater Market.  
They were eatin' the groceries and drinkin' and boozin'  
And the whole situation was gettin' confoozin'  
When suddenly Susan appeared like a vision  
On her usual habitual peace-making mission  
To sort out our troubles and clean up the mess, like  
We've come to expect, in a way that is Hess-like  
And then in a twinkle she had the day saved;  
Soon the trouble all stopped and the people behaved.  
But we heard her exclaim in a voice brave and true,  
"After this place, I think I could manage a zoo.  
Merry Christmas to all, and much Hanukkah cheer,  
And another Park Towerian Happy New Year!"

## UNDER OUR ROOF

### YARD SALE GARAGE SALE TAG SALE YARD SALE GARAGE SALE TAG SALE

Put this date on your calendar: Sunday, February 5, 1-5 in the Party Room. The Park Tower Newsletter is sponsoring the **PARK TOWER MIDWINTER INDOOR YARD SALE**. This will be an event just for Park Tower residents, and admission and vending are, of course free. Just show up at the Party Room with all the things you'd love to get rid of and set up shop on one of the tables. If you'd like to bring a clothes rack or stand to display your merchandise, that's fine. No food may be sold or served. The Party Room will be open at 12:30 to allow vendors time to set up.

PLEASE bring items to sell. Everybody loves a yard sale so they can browse through the stuff and get a bargain, but if everybody just comes to buy and nobody comes to sell, there will be no sale. Start now to collect your sale items. Put a box on your closet floor and begin accumulating odds and ends you don't really want.

Nothing is too weird---you wouldn't believe what people would buy. Here is your chance to get in touch with the camel trader hidden deep within your soul. Also to clean house. Also to make a few bucks. **SAVE THIS DATE:** Sunday, February 5, 1-5PM.



## **SIX WAYS TO ENTERTAIN YOUR HOLIDAY GUESTS WITHOUT GOING BROKE**

1) Take them to the top of the John Hancock Center for lunch. The Signature Room (95th floor) is very expensive for dinner, but from Monday through Friday it offers a businessman's special all-you-can-eat (nice!) lunch buffet for \$6.95 (that's six- ninety- five, not a misprint), served from 11am to 2pm. The menu includes a chef- carved roast, two other hot entrees, rice, vegetables, and assorted salads. Reservations are needed only for parties of eight or more, and beverages are extra. The glass walls of the Signature Room provide a view so spectacular that it makes our Park Tower view seem as if we were sitting on the ground. Located at 875 N. Michigan; buses 151 and 147 go right there. Phone 787-9596 for further details.

2) The same \$6.95 will buy you lunch at the Palmer House---no view but lots of elegance. Walk through the hotel's lobby to Windsor's, where Monday through Friday a generous sandwich buffet is served from 11:30am-2:30pm. A chef in a tall white hat will carve your choice of roast beef, turkey, ham corned beef, et al., and will construct you a sandwich that would feed a family of four. You may then help yourself as many times as you wish to salads, soups, and desserts. If it's Wednesday don't miss the lasagna soup, which could become an addiction. Beverages are extra. State and Monroe; go on bus 151 or 147, or the EL. Phone number 726-7500.



3) Here are the free days at Chicago's museums: Monday, Chicago Historical Society (642-4600). Tuesday, Art Institute (443-3500). Also Tuesday, Adler Planetarium (922-Star). Also Tuesday, Museum of Contemporary Art (280-2660). Wednesday, Museum of Natural History (922-9410). Thursday, Museum of Science and Industry (684-1414). Also Thursday, Shedd Aquarium (939-2438), however a fee is charged for optional admission to the Oceanarium (whales) and is best arranged in advanced through Ticketmaster if you expect to get near the door during the Holidays. The Museum of Broadcast Communications (in the Chicago Cultural Center at Michigan and Washington) always offers free exhibits of the history of radio; one Park Tower senior recently saw his former Little Orphan Annie Secret Decoder Ring there.

4) Does everybody know that at Tedino's ALL PIZZA IS HALF-PRICE ALL DAY WEDNESDAY, DINE-IN ONLY, NO TAKE-OUTS.

5) Two of Chicago's famous comedy clubs have bargain nights. ZANIES, 1548 N. Wells, has a \$1 show on Thursday nights. Call 337-4027 for details. SECOND CITY, 1616 N. Wells, presents its best of Second City on Monday nights for a \$5 admission. Call 337-3992 for details.

6) Also free, and blessedly indoors for winter sightseeing, is the Chicago Board of Trade, 141 W. Jackson (at the foot of LaSalle). Call 744-4000 for information about attending the Visitors' Gallery to observe a wild and crazy trading session, the quintessential Chicago thing to do.

## HOLIDAY TREATS IF YOU'RE ON A DIET

PROBLEM: You are on a low-salt diet but can't stand sodium-free cheese because it tastes like cardboard. And it's the holiday season, and you'd love some cheese spread. SOLUTION: put sodium-free (taste-free) cheese through a food-processor with as much garlic as you like. Gradually add a little beer until you get a good spreading consistency. Garlic and beer will not add sodium, but they do add a lot of flavor, and you won't believe the difference.

PROBLEM: The same boring low-fat diet denies you the gravy you love, since gravy is usually made with a lot of fat. SOLUTION: Use Wondra Instant Flour (follow directions on box) to thicken canned chicken broth (1 gm. fat per can) and season to taste---if you can't have salt, add some sherry. Or, use canned beef broth, thicken it with the same instant flour, and add a shot of Madeira.

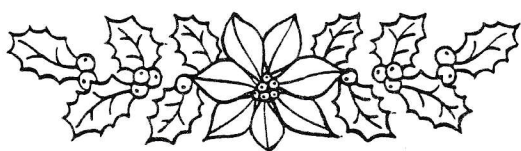
## CLASSIFIED

**For Sale:** Queen size sofa sleeper, with foam mattress. Neutral color, good condition, \$125.00. Call 878-2910.

**Services offered:** Interior window cleaning service. Call Mr. Hawk at 989-7768.

## HUMIDIFIER INFORMATION

Humidifiers are used by many residents to increase the comfort level of their homes during the heating season. When used properly, humidifiers do not cause a problem.



However, when the humidity level of the home is allowed to get too high, serious water damage can occur. Moisture will condense on the cool window glass frames causing damage to carpeting and window sills. Water may also travel to the unit below and this will cause damage to this unit also.

To prevent water damage problems, a humidifier should not be used without a humidity gauge. The maximum humidity should never exceed 30 percent in the unit.

During cold weather, it is normal for some frosting of the windows to occur.

**KEEP THE HUMIDIFIERS AS FAR AWAY FROM THE WINDOWS AS POSSIBLE**

Mop up any pooled water **PROMPTLY** to avoid damage to your sills, carpeting and the unit below.

Turn the humidifier off when cooking, bathing or entertaining large groups of people.

**CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS**

The Management Office received several questions about the new City Ordinance requiring carbon monoxide detectors in each home by the first of October. The building does not have gas heating or gas stoves in the units, so the detectors are not required.

The main boiler and hot water system is gas operated and the staff has installed detectors in the appropriate mechanical

areas. Individual unit owners do not need to place the detectors inside their units.

**ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS**

The October 1994 assessment statement appearance will be new as Community Specialists of PM Realty Group begins a new statement format.

The one page format allows unit owners to remove the lower portion of the statement and return it with their payment in the enclosed envelope. The upper portion of the statement is used for owners' records.

When mailing your payment to the lock box address, please do not include address changes or questions. Payments are automatically processed through a lock box and computerized payment record system. The management staff does not review each statement for notes or questions.

Send address changes and questions directly to the management office so they can be answered in a timely manner.

**REMINDER...**assessment payments are due and payable the first of each month. Payments received or processed after the 10th of each month are subject to a \$25.00 late fee. The Association policy assesses a late fee of \$25.00 to any outstanding balance over \$50.00.

PM Realty Group formed a new business division in August 1994. **COMMUNITY SPECIALIST OF PM REALTY GROUP** is a business organization dedicated to condominium and community property management. There is no change in management staff or services offered by





the firm, only a closer focus on the needs of condominium owners.

### IN CASE OF A FIRE...

In case of a fire in your unit, **CALL DOWN TO THE DOORMAN AND INFORM THE DOORMAN OF THE SITUATION.** The doorman will contact the Chicago Fire Department and Maintenance Personnel immediately.

**DO NOT OPEN YOUR WINDOWS WHILE THE FIRE IS STILL GOING!** This will cause the fire to spread faster.

If the cause of the fire is grease from cooking -- **DO NOT TRY TO PUT THE FIRE OUT WITH WATER!!** Use flour or baking soda to extinguish a grease fire. It would also be a good idea to have a small hand operated fire extinguisher in your kitchen for this type of emergency.

If the fire is a large fire that cannot be quickly and easily extinguished -**LEAVE YOUR HOME, CLOSE THE DOOR BUT LEAVE IT UNLOCKED SO THAT THE FIRE FIGHTERS CAN ENTER, ALERT OTHER OCCUPANTS ON YOUR FLOOR.** Use the closest **EXIT** stairway, closing the door behind you. **DO NOT**

**USE THE ELEVATORS!**

### HOLIDAY SPECIAL

Just in time for the Holiday Guests! The Park Tower Maintenance Staff is having a special on painting the exterior of your front door. When normally the price to repaint a door is \$20.00, the cost is being reduced to \$15.00 for the Holiday season. If you are an owner, simply call the management office to schedule a time that

is convenient.

### GET WELL WISHES:

All of us at Park Tower would like to send our get well wishes to Ed Kargas who underwent minor surgery at the end of October. We wish you a speedy recovery!!!

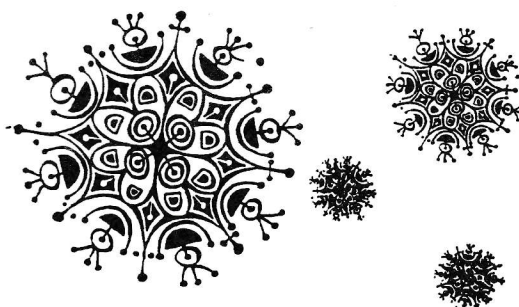
### CONGRATULATIONS

To Sada K. Sada and his wife Abir on the birth of their daughter on October 7, 1994. Narmina weighed in at 7lbs 4 ounces at birth. Though the proud father says he could use more sleep these days, just the mention of his new daughter brings a smile to his face and the love and admiration he has for her fills the air.

### CHRISTMAS TREE TIPS

If you are planning to have a live tree this holiday season, the following suggestions may be helpful.

1. Take an old bed sheet with you to wrap the tree in **before** you carry it through the building to your apartment.
2. Cut off the base of the tree so it absorbs water readily and water daily.
3. TO DISPOSE OF TREE- remove all decorations, remove from stand and **CALL THE MANAGEMENT OFFICE FOR DISPOSAL OF YOUR TREE...FREE OF CHARGE.**



### MANAGEMENT UPDATE

At the Board of Directors Meeting held on October 4, 1994, the Board of Directors approved the following contracts:

--A contract submitted by Cupples Products for the curtain wall repairs to the 01 tier.

--A contract submitted by Kellermeyer Godfryt Hart to act as the Consultant for the repairs to our garage.

--A proposal submitted by Burdco Group for the replacement of the mens and womens shower stalls in the health club.

--A proposal submitted by NuMex to remove and replace the asphalt on the driveway to the loading dock.

The following contracts were renewed:

--J.R. Electronics, who services our intercom system from the doorman's station to each individual apartment.

J.R. Electronics increased our monthly service fee from \$150.00 to \$159.00 per month.

--York International, for the maintenance services on our chillers. York gave us a 3.8% increase over last years contract.

The Board ratified six CD investments and one treasury bill purchase.

The Board denied a request for a unit owner to install parquet flooring in the hallway, living room and dining room of their unit as this exceeds the Declaration requirement that 80% of the apartment be carpeted.

The Board approved a request from a unit owner to do remodeling work to combine two units together.

At this meeting the Board voted to ratify the recommendations given by the Rules and Regulations Committee to fine one

unit owner \$250.00 for an illegal move, and one unit owner \$250.00 for noise violations. Another unit owner was fined for operating a business out of their apartment.

A special Thank You was given to Nora Tocus for writing the Newsletter for Park Tower Condominium Association since June. The quality of the Newsletter has greatly improved since Nora started writing them.

### OUR ALDERMAN AT WORK

Park Tower Condominium Association would like to extend a Thank You to our Alderman, Mary Ann Smith. During the past year Alderman Smith has met with the residents of Park Tower, 5445 and 5455 to hear some of the concerns our residents had regarding the neighborhood and how this effects the value of our property. Alderman Smith, along with the Edgewater Community Council and ASCO, has been accomplishing miracles with the help of City of Chicago planning experts and the Chicago Police Department. Criminals and slumlords are being replaced by people who care about our neighborhood. The rehab of the Berwyn L Station, plans to rehab the Bryn Mawr L Station, along with steps to beautify our Parks and streets are some of the obvious contributions the Alderman has given to our neighborhood.

Alderman Smith has also saved Park Tower Condominium Association and 5445 \$20,000.00 in the paving of our side driveway. Alderman Smith included our side driveway repairs in the resurfacing program for our ward. We ask that all of our residents help us in thanking Alderman Smith for all her help and for her dedication to our neighborhood.



## SENIORS QUESTIONNAIRE

ATTENTION PARK TOWER SENIORS: Tell us what you'd like to see in the Newsletter. Please take just a moment to fill in this questionnaire, then tear off the page and, the next time you go downstairs to the lobby, just drop it in the Newsletter collection box at the doorman's desk. Thank you!

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE NEWSLETTER PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE FOLLOWING THINGS (CHECK THE ITEMS YOU AGREE WITH):

☐ Seniors' discounts at local stores and restaurants

☐ Seniors' social activities at Park Tower (Example: weekly bridge or Scrabble in the Party Room; or a book group)

☐ Activities in the community (Example: concerts)

☐ Medical-related information (Example: diet information)

☐ Possibility of a shared outing (Example: sharing a chartered bus to Gurnee Mills Mall for a day's shopping in 200 discount stores; or, a group trip to an afternoon theater production at discounted group and/or seniors' prices)

☐ Volunteer work possibilities in the community (Example: tutoring, hospital work, office work)

☐ Seniors' recipe exchange (contribute your favorites)

☐ Seniors' skills exchange (could you teach someone to knit, speak Russian, bake bread? Is there a new skill you'd like?)

☐ Seniors' travel information exchange (do you know of any bargains? Good trips? Have travel videos to share?)

☐ I would be interested in having a Park Tower Neighbors' Registry so that senior Park Tower residents would have a way of knowing when their neighbors need help and could exchange favors and kindness. For example: Person A is recovering from foot surgery and needs Person B to pick up his groceries for just a few days. Next month, Person B has same-day in-and-out surgery at Weiss Hospital and needs Person A to come and ride home with him in the taxi because the hospital won't release him unless there's somebody with him. There are many such times when all of us would willingly help a neighbor but, in such a huge building, often we just don't have any way of knowing when our help is needed. A Neighbors' Registry would address this situation---persons willing to help or needing help could register and get in touch with one another.

PLEASE SUGGEST ACTIVITIES OR SERVICES YOU WOULD WELCOME OR LET US KNOW ABOUT ANY ACTIVITIES OR GROUPS THAT MAY ALREADY BE MEETING. USE AN EXTRA SHEET OF PAPER IF NEEDED. THANK VERY MUCH!

## CABLE CHANNELS

It has been suggested by Maxtel Cablevision, that due to lack of interest for the Disney Channel, we remove this channel from our options of the Premium Stations and add another station to the extended Basic Cable lineup. Below are some Channel options from many requests made by our Residents.

Please take a moment and mark the channel you would like to see added to the Extended Basic Cable lineup.

\_\_\_AMC

\_\_\_BET

\_\_\_CNBC

\_\_\_SCIFI

\_\_\_LIFETIME

\_\_\_NICKELODEON

\_\_\_VH-1

\_\_\_WEATHER CHANNEL

\_\_\_COURT TV

\_\_\_OTHER\_\_\_\_\_

Your opinion, as well as opinions from residents of 5445 and 5455, will help with the final selection.

Thank you.