



Park Tower News

FEBRUARY 1995/MARCH 1995

Please convey our
thanks to all Park
Tower employees for
all their work,
"above and beyond
the call of duty"
during last week's
crisis.

The Spencers



THANK YOU FOR
HANDLING THE POWER
OUTAGE SO EFFECTIVELY
& PROFESSIONALLY
BILL LEYDEN

We are most grateful to our
entire work staff for their
dedication and tremendous
efforts in helping all the
residents. Our highest
regards go to you all.

Barbara & George Gesis

ONE OF THOSE TIMES WHEN SAYING
"THANK YOU" ISN'T ENOUGH

When the now-famous Park Tower Electrical Failure first pitched us into darkness just before 6 PM on January 5, 1995, we residents had no way of knowing just how long-lasting and far reaching the outage was going to be. But, if by some magic, we could have known instantly that for 22 hours we would be without electricity, water, heat or elevators, we would have known also that our wonderful, wonderful staff --- and a lot of other people --- would be right on the job to help us through the crisis. And they were.

The doorman on duty that evening was Ernest Lowery, who quickly found himself administering a madhouse in the dark. Roberto Nieves, Chief Security Officer, was having dinner in Skokie when he was paged to come to Park Tower. Roberto left his meal and came to the property and stayed for the next 24 hours. Around the Clock Security called in nine extra guards and had them come to the property. Many of these guards were escorting people up and down the stairwell all night long to get to or from their apartments. Carl Nabb, Health Club Director, also came back to the building after hearing the news and walked up to the 50th floor to check on some of our handicapped residents. Sada K. Sada also appeared Thursday night with coffee and hamburgers for the workers he knew would be here all night long. Sada helped Val and Chuck monitor the vital statistics of the building and gave periodic updates. The managers from 5445 and 5455

along with their maintenance staff came to our building immediately after hearing the first explosion and offered their help. Community Specialists personnel from PM Realty Group properties arrived at the scene bringing emergency equipment from their buildings as well as offering their help. Rosemarie Wert, Director of Condominium Management, was stationed at her home contacting outside contractors to send to the building as well as communicating with many of our residents that required assistance or just needed information. Rosemarie was in constant communication with Susan via cellular phone and was able to provide assistance, direction and moral support throughout the night and came to the property early Friday morning along with Ron Hickman, Managing Director of Community Specialists. Many members of the Board of Directors were also in the lobby offering help, advice, and support to the residents of the building and to the Management Team.

In a garage with no lights or electrical door controls, security might have disappeared if not for the vigilance of Garage Manager, Steve Sassetti, who quickly called in extra staff. Alderman Mary Ann Smith came right away to offer her help and was able to order extra police support. Officers helped residents up or down the stairs and checked on those remaining in their apartments, and supported our own security staff in keeping the bad guys out at a bad time. Many thanks to Alderman Smith and the Chicago Police Department.

Alderman Smith also brought in the Department of Human Resources with blankets and cots. Which were placed in the 5445 party room thanks to our neighbors hospitality. Lenny from Schindler Elevator spent the night preparing the elevators for service the minute we received power to do so. The President of Hollywood Towers walked over to our building and lent us some of their emergency equipment. (They experienced the same situation last July).

To everyone who helped us, many of whom we cannot name here, we owe an enormous and heartfelt **THANK YOU!** But what do we say to Susan Hess, who (while on her way home) came back to work like a dog all that night, the next day, and all the following week, or to Ron Knudsen, Val Trifu, and Chuck Brown who literally saved the building from extensive damage due to the outage and worked for more than 36 hours straight through? Due to the dedication, fast action, and clear thinking of these people, we had no injuries and minimal property damage. Susan, Ron, Val, and Chuck, there are no words.

TO PARK TOWER RESIDENTS FROM ROSEMARIE WERT, PROPERTY SUPERVISOR, COMMUNITY SPECIALISTS OF PM REALTY GROUP

We received many calls and notes from residents and homeowners letting us know what a wonderful job the staff at Park Tower did during and after the recent electrical disaster.

It was rewarding that so many of you took the time to acknowledge the dedication and professionalism displayed by so

many. Please know it was appreciated.

I want to give a special thank you to the staff who went so long without sleep, but also to you residents who handled the situation with calm and dignity. Park Tower is a special home to a lot of very special people.

FLOOR CAPTAINS NEEDED!!!!

With the excitement of the power outage now behind us, it is time to think about how we can better handle an emergency situation. One area that we could improve on is passing along information as repairs progress. Unfortunately, the office phone system went down when the electricity went out and the residents who remained in their units could not reach the office to obtain updates on the situation. This is why we need **FLOOR CAPTAINS**. Although police were posted on each floor during the night and they as well as security knocked on doors, it is not possible for management to get information to all 728 units every hour for updates. However, the floor captains can get this information to all the residents on their floor during an emergency. Floor captains can also help in monitoring the needs and well-being of all the residents on their floor to ensure that help is received quickly when needed. **HAVING FLOOR CAPTAINS FOR EACH FLOOR IS IMPORTANT, ESPECIALLY DURING A DISASTER.** Those of you who were concerned about lack of communication last Thursday night, have you signed up as a Floor Captain?

**WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS REGARDING
COMPENSATION FOR LOSSES
STEMMING FROM THE RECENT POWER
OUTAGE?**

The master insurance policy for Park Tower does not provide coverage for any personal belongings, therefore residents wishing compensation should contact the company providing their homeowner's or renter's insurance. Residents may also contact Commonwealth Edison directly. Jerry Artis is Commonwealth Edison's Regional Claims Adjuster and his phone number is (312)509-3564.

**WHAT WAS THE CAUSE OF POWER
OUTAGE?**

Commonwealth Edison officials have informed us (although they have not yet received an official report from their engineering experts), the outage was caused by salt contamination and water infiltration from the salt that the City places on the street. The combination dripped or fell on top of their connectors in the vault located right outside the building. This caused the connectors to short out which created the popping noises heard by many residents, and a small fire. Commonwealth Edison Officials will forward a copy of their report to the Management Office upon receipt of same.

**MESSAGE TO MEMBERS OF THE PARK
TOWER HEALTH CLUB:**

Starting Sunday, January 22, 1995 at noon, we will be having a Ping Pong Tournament.

Also on Saturday, January 28, at 1:00pm we will be having a Racquetball Tournament.

Sign up now, and come join the fun!

Just a reminder...every Wednesday night at 6:30pm walleyball is being played in the racquetball court. There is still room to sign up for a team. We have had a lot of fun and wonderful turnout so far.

Let's start the New Year out with a great outlook!

The Health Club Staff would like to thank you for all your splendid support and it has been a pleasure serving you.

Carl Nabb

Carl Nabb
Health Club Director

GARAGE SALE THIS COMING SUNDAY!

Q: Whose garage sale is this?
A: Yours. It is sponsored by the Park Tower Newsletter and is open to all Park Tower residents.

Q: Where and when does it happen?
A: In the Party Room on Sunday, February 5, from 1-5 PM. (The Party Room will open at 12:30 PM to give vendors a chance to set up.)

Q: Do vendors have to rent the space to sell items?
A: Of course not. Tables will be available to all. Just bring your unwanted items, pile them on a table, think of what price you want to ask, and go into business.

Q: So the whole affair is a freebie?
A: Totally. No admission, no fees. (However, if you buy something, you'd better pay for

it or the vendor may become annoyed.)

Q: What kind of things may I sell?

A: Household items, clothing, books, kitchen gadgets, electrical appliances, lamps, baskets, toys and kid stuff, wall hangings and pictures, curtains and rugs, desk things, plants, car stuff, small furniture, tools, jigsaw puzzles, any odds and ends you no longer want, all the weird things you got for holiday gifts, etc.. NO FOOD OR DRINK PLEASE.

Q: As long as I bring my things, put it on a table, and sell it, do I have any other responsibilities at this sale?

A: No. Newsletter staff will take care of cleanup. Be our guest.

Q: Why is this event taking place?

A: Because having individual apartment sales at Park Tower has proved to be very problematic and is not encouraged. Passing out flyers can get you fined; bringing in outsiders can get you robbed. Under our roof we have more than a thousand people --- that's plenty to have a community sale of our own. This is first Park Tower Indoor Garage Sale --- let's make it a success. It's a chance to get rid of unwanted items, to do some browsing and shopping, and to see our neighbors. If we happen to pick up a few bucks at the same time, that's also fun.

Q: What is the single most important thing to remember about the Park Tower Indoor Garage Sale?

A: That people should come and BRING ITEMS TO SELL. Browsing is great, but if nobody brings sale items, there won't be a sale. So COME AND BRING MERCHANDISE. See you Sunday afternoon.

RESULTS OF SENIORS' SURVEY

The last edition of the Newsletter carried a questionnaire for senior residents of Park Tower, asking for their opinions about activities and services they would like to have --- possibly the Newsletter could be helpful in getting people together to organize needed programs.

Of those responding to the questionnaire, the largest group (75% of respondents) want organized outings. The next-largest group (nearly 70%) request social activities at Park Tower, information about community activities, and information about seniors' discounts. After that, 50% would like information about volunteer opportunities and travel, and the same number want a neighbors' registry (a listing of people who'd like to help their neighbors or who request help from their neighbors). The next-ranked request (25%) was for a skills exchange where people could arrange to teach skills they know and learn skills they don't know. Medical information came next, with about 20% wanting it, and last of all came a recipe exchange, which fewer than 10% want.

Some respondents were good enough to write in additional information and to make suggestions. Interest was expressed in having theater

trips, shopping trips, and casino excursions. Several people mentioned specific skills they wish to teach or learn. One person suggested a regular film group whose participants could meet in one another's apartments to view and discuss movies on videotape. Another person spoke of starting a book group, or of reviving a previous group. Still another announced that a games group has already been planned to meet, starting soon, for regular sessions of table and card games (and others also expressed interest in meeting to play games. WATCH BULLETIN BOARDS FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT GET-TOGETHERS.

So, it seems that overwhelmingly, the major interest that Park Tower seniors have is in getting more of a social program going. The next edition of the Newsletter will bring further information about this. In the meantime, if you would be willing to help with any of these programs mentioned here, PLEASE leave a note in the Newsletter's mailbox on the Doorman's Desk in the front lobby: give your phone number so that the Newsletter can get in touch with you as planning continues.

Thanks to all who responded to the questionnaire.

NOTICE TO SENIORS: A good (mail order) source of metal tags to carry identification or medical alert information is ELGIN ENGRAVING CO., 522 Stevens Street, Dundee, Illinois 60118. Write to request their free catalog. Example: a stainless steel ID tag with 6 lines of writing,

20 spaces per line, costs \$7.50 including a 24" stainless steel chain. This reliable company offers dozens of types of useful and inexpensive engraved tags.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Ricoh XR-10 35mm. manual focus camera with 35-70 mm macro lens, Sekonic light meter, Vivitar polarizing filter, tripod, cable release, and nylon camera bag, \$350 for all. Please call 312-878-2910 and leave message.

WANTED: To learn to play bridge. If you're willing to try to teach me, which might not be easy, please call 312-275-0179.

WANTED: Babysitter for infant Three days a week (Mon-Wed-Fri) 8:00am to 6:00pm. Also looking for occasional evening..... Pls. call Bern Cobar 312-784-8783.

NORTH LAKESIDE CULTURAL CENTER

Feb 12: Ars Musica Chicago brings a Valentine's Day Concert on Love & music at 3 PM

Feb 19: Trombonist Sara Maul presents a solo recital at 3 PM

Feb 26: The Gershwin Trio features Dawn Marie Hirsh at 3 PM

ALL THESE CONCERTS CHARGE \$5 AT THE DOOR. \$3 MEMBERS OR SENIORS.

Mar. 17: Special evening concert of Irish music. For details of cost and time call the Center at 743-4477. The North Lakeside Cultural Center is located in a splendid old



mansion at 6219 North Sheridan.

MIDWINTER EVENTS IN CHICAGO

SKATE ON STATE: If you are an ice-skater and haven't yet been to SKATE ON STATE, start making plans to go soon. SKATE ON STATE is a big, free, open-air, conveniently-located ice-skating park right in the heart of the Loop. Occupying the entire block of State Street just across from Marshall Fields between Randolph and Washington, SKATE ON STATE is easily reached from Park Tower using either the 151 or 147 bus (get off at Michigan and Randolph and walk two very short blocks to State) or the EL Red Line (get off at Washington and you're practically on the ice).

Admission and skating are FREE. Bring your own skates or rent theirs for \$2 (children) or \$3 (adults). SKATE ON STATE is open 7 days a week from 9 AM to 7:15 PM. Warming trailers are available.

CHICAGO WINTERBREAK

CHICAGO WINTERBREAK will be celebrated in many downtown locations during the week of February 14-21. For complete details, telephone the Mayor's Hotline at 744-5000, but here are a few of the highlights:

Daily at noon: Ice-skating exhibitions at SKATE ON STATE, State street between Randolph and Washington. ALL FREE.

Other hours at this and other locations (call for details): Ice hockey demonstrations, Exercise on Ice, volleyball exhibition, a snowball tournament in Lincoln Park, a

Blues festival, and the Lighting of Chicago. Many events take place every day for a full week. You may have the opportunity to see (Free)! in person some of the famous ice skaters you have enjoyed seeing on television; last year two Olympic gold-medalists appeared at SKATE ON STATE for one of the noon exhibitions.

ALWAYS TONYA

Always Tonya, Park Tower's beauty salon, wasn't always TONYA, but used to be JAZZABELLE until about six years ago. ALWAYS TONYA offers a full range of cosmetology services including shampoos, haircuts, permanents, ethnic hair styling, hair coloring, pedicures, manicures, and facial waxing. TONYA's prices are reasonable, the convenience is tops, and they even serve free coffee. ALWAYS TONYA presents its staff:

Mary Lopez has worked at the shop for 7 years. She received her cosmetology training in Chicago and is devoted to her active family. Mary, a native of Mexico, would like people to know that she offers a special welcome to Spanish-speaking clients.

Stephen Tuttle (Steve) has been at ALWAYS TONYA for 5 years. Cosmetology is a second career for Steve, since he formerly worked as a printer for 16 years. He hails from Ohio, trained here in Chicago, and is an Edgewater resident.

Ivory Whitten has been at the shop for 4 years. She also has made a second career of cosmetology, training in Chicago after 15 years with the

Ohio Bell Telephone Company, so you may be sure she's a good communicator. Ivory would like people to know that she specializes in ethnic hair styles and offers evening hours.

ALWAYS TONYA is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9-5 with flexible evening hours by arrangement. Mary and Steve work daytime hours and Ivory's there in the evenings: during busy seasons they may take on extra help too. Telephone is 769-6611.

TEN EASY DINNERS USING EDGEWATER MARKET INGREDIENTS

1) Stir-Fry: slice one pork chop per person into strips and stir-fry with onion and zucchini slices, cherry tomatoes, and mushrooms. The market carries many kinds of rice to go with this dish.

2) CHILI-MAC: 16 oz. of ready-made chili con carne from the deli counter poured over cooked pasta. Have a salad with this.

3) SMOKED SAUSAGE: with sauerkraut (fresh or canned) and a can of pre-cooked potatoes. Follow cooking directions on the sausage. When it's about half-done add sauerkraut and potatoes to it.

4) CHEESE OMELET: eggs plus cheese, with frozen French fries, a salad, and some hot buttered toast.

5) CHICKEN AND GRAVY: lay raw chicken pieces in pan; over them pour the undiluted contents of a can of cream of chicken or cream of mushroom soup. Bake at 350* for an hour. Chicken juices will co-

mingle with soup to make lots of wonderful gravy. If you bake potatoes or sweet potatoes at the same time, you'll have something to eat with the gravy. Have canned or frozen green beans with this, maybe a can of whole cranberry sauce. Try this.

6) PORK CHOPS: baked with Stove-Top or other stuffing-from-a-mix. Lay raw chops in a pan and put a big scoop of stuffing on each chop. Bake at 350* for about 45 minutes. Good with canned yams.

7) SIRLOIN ROAST: roast beef at 300* for 20-30 minutes per pound (depending if you want it rare or well-done). Meanwhile, cook frozen "stew vegetables" until they are nearly done then lay them around the meat in the pan and while the meat is cooking occasionally spoon some meat juice over the vegetables.

8) QUICHE: beat 3 eggs with a fork, mix in a teacup of milk, add salt and pepper and a bag of shredded cheese (any kind). Pour this into a frozen pie shell. Now add anything you want (sliced sauteed onion, zucchini, or mushrooms; cut-up fried bacon; pieces of cooked ham or sausage; bits of cooked broccoli, etc.. BE CREATIVE. Bake at 350* for about 45 minutes or until the crust is nice and brown and you can insert a table knife into the egg-milk-cheese part and the knife comes out clean.

9) TUNA CASSEROLE: canned tuna, canned cream of mushroom soup, and cooked pasta. Mix. Bake at 350* for about 45 minutes.

10) HAM STEAK: baked on top of scalloped potatoes from a mix.