



Park Tower News

EDGEWATER BEACH HOTEL—WHAT WE USED TO BE

More than a few of us Park Tower residents will remember some very special evenings “way back when” spent on the very property where we are now living. Who will ever forget the Edgewater Beach Hotel, dining and dancing in the Marine Room with its starlit ceiling, listening to the music of Wayne King and his orchestra, strolling (and whatever else one could get away with) on the Boardwalk along the lake? Surely there are no more glamorous, romantic memories, and we are filled with nostalgia.

To go back a bit into the history of this piece of property, long before there was even a thought of a hotel, or any other kind of building for that matter, the land on which we now live was a mere strip of dunes on the very edge of the lake. (The Outer Drive to the east was to come much later.) Would you believe that in 1906 a one-half interest in the strip brought a top bid of \$775!

Just ten years later, however, the Edgewater Beach Hotel, designed by Benjamin Marshall, who also designed the Drake Hotel, opened its doors. With an addition built just to the south of the original building in 1926, the hotel, already well-known all through the United States, could boast of 1,000 rooms and represented an investment estimated at \$9 million.

Until the depression of 1929 hit, the hotel prospered, and was actually saved by the successful World Fair of 1933-34—

the Century of Progress. However, in spite of its popularity and its very special ambience, the hotel did face bankruptcy. “The patient has far from expired. It may require a heart transplant, but there is hope.” Thus was the encouraging message from Leonard Gesas, attorney for Harry Ash, trustee who handled the bankruptcy proceedings involving the owner, H. R. Weissberg Corporation.

With high hopes for continuing its glorious traditions, in 1964 it had restored the famous Marine Room, which for more than 30 years had been the place to go for high school and college proms and other festive occasions. The hotel even had 82 cabanas around its outdoor pool, which rented for \$800 to \$1,050 for the summer season. The hotel property, whose address was 5349 Sheridan Road, had been offered for sale as early as 1962 for \$8 million, and an extensive remodeling was contemplated. But in December of 1967 the Edgewater Beach Hotel, a Northside landmark for a half century, finally closed its doors, having abandoned its “carriage trade” several years before and telling its 65 permanent guests to move.

By 1969, a dramatic architectural concept to replace the old hotel was proposed. We now reside within the realization of a part of that concept. By January 1970 the walls of one of the world’s great hotels finally came tumbling down.

(More about the Edgewater Beach Hotel in a later issue.)
—Herbert Zimmerman

Park Tower Condominium Association

- Harold Pollen, president Apt. 2901
- Russell Baruch, vice-president Apt. 3006
- Peter Merrill, treasurer Apt. 2311
- Frank Reichert, secretary Apt. 5402
- David Salmon 878-7100
- Budget and Finance Committee, James Byrd Apt. 1902
- Building and Maintenance Committee, Bobbie Corbett Apt. 1109
- Communication Committee, Dorothy Saxner Apt. 3501
- Garage Committee, Robert Stieber Apt. 1701
- Legal and Rules Committee, Charles Pikcunas Apt. 2907
- Safety and Security Committee, Ben Rawnsley Apt. 3211
- Social and Recreation Committee, Ed Arnold Apt. 3205
- Newsletter Editor, Carol Carman Apt. 2504

Deadline for articles is the 15th of each month.

REMINDER: WHY CORRIDORS GET COOL

With the sudden blast of fall weather in mid-August, the corridors suddenly turned cool, too, for a number of days. That’s because outside air supply is required to be brought into the corridors at times. So even though the cooling system in the corridors is set at a constant 78 degrees, the corridors get cooler when the outside air is considerably colder than 78 degrees.

But keep your cool about the situation, for when the corridors get too cold the outside air supply gets shut off temporarily.

BOARD DUTIES VARY WIDELY

Our property report spells out certain powers and duties of the Board of Directors, who act in behalf of the Association. These include: enforcement of all provisions of the property report and any other rules and regulations adopted by the Association; selection of legal counsel, accounting firm, and other major contractors; fiscal review of revenues and expenses; preparation of an annual budget; general direction for management; and review of maintenance of premises and services therein.

Accordingly, your Board of Directors has been dealing with a wide variety of matters, many of which have been mentioned in this newsletter. For instance, enforcement of parking regulations, vandalism, delinquent assessments, exterior appearance, and participation in community organizations were all reported upon in your August newsletter.

Other matters being considered include: energy conservation, establishment of move-in procedures and possibly fees, security, property taxes, shopping mall improvements, landscaping, resale and rental procedures, and community affairs involvement.

In addition, seven standing committees have been established: Building and Maintenance, Legal and Rules, Budget and Finance, Safety and Security, Social and Recreation, Garage, and Communication. These provide a continuous flow of recommendations to be evaluated by the Board. To aid in deliberations, each committee has a Board member designated to serve as liaison to the committee.

To function effectively, your Condominium Association relies heavily on the knowledge and dedication of its Board members. In turn, for the Board to adequately represent the interests of Association members, it must rely totally on you. You are encouraged to make your opinions known either through committee participation or by written suggestions placed in the Association box in the lobby near the doorman's station.

—Frank Reichert,
Board member

NEW YOGA SERIES TO BEGIN

Now's the time to sign up for the new series of yoga classes to begin in the second floor Party Room Monday, September 10. The class meets from 8 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. Sharon Steffensen is the instructor.

Men and women of any age are encouraged to take part. Last session's members have already "re-upped," enthusiastically reporting a much better feeling about themselves mentally as well as physically.

In addition to the easy-to-learn exercises, the classes offer an opportunity to make new friends and share interesting experiences other than yoga. *Apres-class* always seems to elicit some sparkling conversation: recent travels to far away places, fascinating careers, amusing experiences. Sharon will be telling us about her trip to Greece at the first session.

To join, just show up on September 10!

RIDING THE CTA

If you're new to Park Tower, you'll want to learn how to get around on public transportation as soon as possible. There's much to explore in Chicago.

From 5415 North Sheridan (bus stop across the street) take a 147 express, which turns east on Foster and over to Lake Shore Drive, for the fastest route to North Michigan Avenue and the Loop. The 146 bus takes only three minutes longer and is often less crowded. It goes down Sheridan, turns east on Wilson, then to Lake Shore Drive, and direct to North Michigan Avenue and the Loop.

The 151 is a local following Sheridan Road south to North Michigan Avenue and the Loop. Marked buses also go to Union Station.

Want to go to the zoo in Lincoln Park? Take the 151 to Diversey and transfer to a 153 or a 156. If you'd like to do some shopping in Old Orchard Shopping Center, north of us in Skokie, take any Howard Street bus going north and transfer at the Howard Street Station to a 97, which runs about every 10 to 15 minutes.

If you prefer the L, you can catch it at Berwyn. Take any that stops to go south. But when you're returning from the Loop, make sure you're on a B train.

Also remember that the 147 express bus stops service from 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. going south and from 11:56 a.m. to 4 p.m. going north. The last 147 coming north out of the Loop leaves that area at 7 p.m.

—Carol Carman

WORKING ON A GREEN THUMB DEGREE?

Edgewater Beach Flower Shop offers these suggestions for caring for house plants:

Medium light locations are preferred by most green plants. This means light near a sunny window but protected from direct sun. To determine this, place your hand one foot above the area you have chosen as their home—you should get a distinct shadow.

Moderately moist soil is best; avoid overwatering. Shallow, nondraining containers require less frequent watering than those with drainage.

Temperatures found in most homes are acceptable, but moderate locations are preferred: ideally, 70 degrees during the day and 50 to 55 degrees at night.

Fertilizer: If plants are kept for extended periods of time, use a house plant fertilizer at the manufacturer's suggested rate and frequency.

MORE FROM THE GARAGE

The Garage Committee is considering many ideas that will benefit all condo owners and their guests without jeopardizing any revenue from hourly parkers. The garage is an important part of income for our Condo Association. All ideas must be considered before any are acted upon. The goals are a better operating garage with good service at a minimum cost.

—Faye Eisenberg

THE LONG WAIT

The Long Wait. Is that the title of a movie or a novel? No, it's the name of the elevator game at Park Tower.

Now maybe you live on a floor that doesn't give you elevator problems. Maybe the elevator is always there when you press the button. That could be. The elevator must be on someone else's floor, because it certainly is hardly ever on mine!

But I've learned to cope with the waiting game. In fact, I've come to realize that life with Park Tower's elevators provides many useful and interesting moments.

One by-product of the long wait is the excitement of the double-elevator chase. This is when you and your neighbor divide up, you stationing yourself at the front elevator and your partner-in-crime at the back. The first person who sees the elevator light go off yells, "Charge!" and the other, say it's you, sprints into a twenty-yard dash.

Notwithstanding the race to get yourself to the elevator, you enter it with all the aplomb of someone who's been standing there for the normal five-minute wait—unless it turns out that inside the elevator are two pieces of luggage, one baby stroller, and a plant in addition to several human beings.

In this case you enter gingerly, for one of the things you have learned in your battle to cope with the elevators is the ability to shape yourself into a pretzel, doughnut, or whatever is required to fit the space allotted. Those educated in spatial geometry are the most adept in these situations, and contribute a lot by cleverly rearranging all the animate and inanimate objects in the elevator.

The biggest advantage of waiting for elevators is the opportunity to make friends. In a five-minute wait you can get a person's life story, learn what he or she does for a living, get a look at a grandchild's photo, or hear about a vacation in the Bahamas.

And you can also learn about the local take-out food emporiums. When you sniff the pizza or the Cantonese food the guy next to you is carrying, you can't help but inquire about its origin. If you're nervy, you even check into prices. It's like having a menu posted right in the elevator!

And what better way to get all the gossip? The bit about the couple down the hall. News from the Management Office. Someone always has something to tell about.

These conversations can lead to unusual results. One time someone in the elevator was carrying a box of frozen filets mignons but had more filets than he could fit in his freezer. Next thing I know I had purchased six filets at a bargain price.

Then there's the knowledge you get while exchanging small talk, especially on floor 1P when you're doing the laundry. I've learned a lot of laundry hints and could easily do a convincing candid camera monolog for at least sixteen different laundry products. Do you know, for example, that you don't need a special detergent for cold water? Or that to avoid wrinkling your polyesters you should remove them from the dryer while it is still spinning? And I do hope you don't mix your dark socks with your whites!

—Dorothy Saxner

LOCKERS ARE FOR STORAGE

A storeroom with lockers is available on every floor so that apartment dwellers can store items they don't want to keep in their apartments. But anything stored outside an apartment must be stored in an assigned locker. Items placed outside the lockers present a fire and safety hazard and are therefore removed by the maintenance staff.

If any of your belongings has been removed, call Ina Goldberg at the Management Office, 769-3250, within the next two weeks. All items that were not properly kept in lockers are in temporary storage in the basement.

If you don't have a locker and want to have one assigned, get in touch with Ina.

SOCIAL AND RECREATION COMMITTEE WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

The first social get-together of the Social and Recreation Committee was held Sunday morning, July 22nd, in the Party Room.

The coffee was great and the sweet rolls delicious—but we were disappointed at the turnout. Only 50 to 60 Park Towerites came to mingle. We were looking forward to a better showing of "Our Towners" to kick off prospective activities.

To help the committee, we would appreciate ideas from you as to what would interest your social taste buds. What do you think of resurrecting Plaza Suite one night a week, perhaps Friday, from 7:00 to 10:30, open to all three buildings of the complex?

Without your interest, a social program would be a lost cause. We need participation to insure success of any social plans. Let us have your views. Just drop a note into the box next to the doorman, and any suggestions will be turned over to our chairman, **Ed Arnold**.

Lois Senderoff,
Social and Recreation Committee

RULES FOR PARK TOWER RESIDENTS ARE IN THE MAKING

Park Tower residents will soon be asked to live by the rules. There will be some new rules for the proper use of the elevators, the garage, the mall, and other areas in and around the building. Pets will undoubtedly be governed by rules, and so will swimmers, health club enthusiasts, and those using the laundry facilities or the Party Room. It's all intended to improve condo living for all of us.

The Legal and Rules Committee, headed by Charles Pikcunas, is now in the process of drafting rules, using as its guide the regulations formerly in effect under tenants' leases and those in the condominium declaration. Much progress has already been made, and the finished product should be ready soon for Board action.

Park Tower residents are urged to make themselves heard on the subject. Do you feel the need for any particular rules of conduct? Make them known to the Committee. Simply slip a note under chairman Pikcunas' door, Apt. 2907, now.

BUY WINDOW SHADES NOW, SAVE ENERGY LATER

If you want to match new window shades with the ones originally installed in your apartment, shades are available at \$20.50 per shade. New rollers, if needed, are \$4.75 each. Contact Ann Shampley in the Management Office, 769-3250, if you want to place an order or want additional information.

Ann can also provide information on window shade cleaning service, in case your shades need only cleaning, but not replacement.

If it's neither new shades nor cleaning you want, but only a service call to fix a shade, let Ann know. Repair service for window shades is at present being provided once a week, at a special minimum charge of \$3.50.

And don't forget, shades are reported to be the best type of window treatment for saving energy. Keep them down in the summer and raised in the winter.

SECURITY TIPS FROM CHIEF OF SECURITY

- Deny admittance to your building to anyone you do not know.
- Close doors securely behind you when entering or leaving the building.
- **Be sure to double-lock your apartment door.** (Your door is not locked securely unless you use your key to turn the bolt into place.)
- Report any suspicious person(s) or actions to the doormen or Management Office.
- Stop newspaper deliveries when you go out of town.
- Do not leave apartment keys in the garage with your car keys.

Regarding your intercom:

- Be sure your caller is identified before pressing the admittance button on your intercom.
- Be sure your caller identifies which door he is calling from and that you press the proper admittance button.
- Remember, your building is only as safe as you make it!

LAUNDRY ROOM TIP

Overloading is a major reason for washing machine malfunctioning. Breakdowns occur because the machines cannot agitate properly, causing wear on parts. For best efficiency and to keep machines in good working order, use two machines rather than overload. Your clothes will be cleaner and the outcome will be fewer breakdowns, which will save the Association costly repairs.

WHO'S WHO IN THE MANAGEMENT OFFICE

When addressing inquiries to the Management Office, be sure you are contacting the proper person:

Joy Pipala—building manager
JoAnn Kendrick—assistant building manager
Ann Champley—service
Ina Goldberg—service
Rosemarie Wert—property supervisor

MAKE YOUR INTERESTS KNOWN

Are you interested in bridge, painting, music, travel, or sports? There must be many others in Park Tower seeking to share these interests, but you must let your desires be known to them. You can do this simply by dropping a note to **Ed Arnold**, Apt. 3205, chairman of the Social and Recreation Committee.

THE FINISHING TOUCH

Interior Design Service

Created to help you design one room or your entire home. From wallpaper, window treatments, and accessories, to a whole new environment. We can beautify your existing surroundings by adding

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