



**Park Tower  
Condominium Association  
Spring 2005**

**NEWSLETTER**

**Too Hot? Too Cold?**

Park Tower's HVAC system will be switching from hot to cold air in the coming weeks. Please understand there are multiple issues affecting this date.

Although one side of the building may be getting the late afternoon sun, another exposure may be belted with cold north winds. We are all sharing a single heating and cooling system, and some compromise must be reached.

Since the water pipes expand and contract depending upon the temperature of the water, switching back and forth during the spring can cause stress on the pipes and possible rupture. For this same reason, changing from hot to cold water is a process that takes a day or two to complete. Thus, we cannot have cold air during the day and heated air that night. There may be days when you need to open windows or put on a sweater.

This spring we are installing vibration isolators on both chillers, a variable speed drive on one of the chillers, and a new triple-duty valve on the condenser loop. These changes are to minimize the vibrations felt throughout the building on mild days when there is little need for the cooled air; under such conditions pressure and stress builds up on the chiller and pipes. These modifications should have a minimal impact on the switching date, but are improvements you should know about.

We thank you for your patience and cooperation during the days of transition.

**The Park Tower Market now offers DVD rentals.**

If you have not yet checked out the DVD rental machine in the Market, think about it the next time you would like to see a movie. The introductory rental fee is just \$1.50/day. Currently there are 60 titles in the machine and the selections are updated each week. While you are there, you can also pick up the popcorn and other treats for your movie-watching pleasure.

**REMEMBER YOUR KEYS!**

Please be aware that the lockout fee is now \$50! There is also a change in the lockout procedure. Now your unit will be charged this \$50 fee; you will no longer pay the engineer for this service.

**Bikes in the Bike Room**

We are going to be issuing new tags for all bikes in the bike room. If you have a bike stored in the bike room, please call Jodi before April 15th at 773-769-3250, ext. 14.

**Remodeling and Construction Problems**

During the last year, we have had too many incidents of violations of remodeling rules. One contractor doing unapproved work cut intercom wires, leaving many residents without functioning intercoms. Another contractor did not remove his construction debris properly and caused significant damaged to our trash chute. Noise complaints have been filed for work done beyond the approved times. We have levied fines for these violations, but our goal is to prevent such infractions from occurring. When you plan your remodeling, please be sure your contractor is aware of the construction regulations. Your cooperation and consideration will reduce the wear and tear on the building and the inconvenience to your neighbors.

## Fire Safety and the Life Safety Code

Last December, a representative of the Chicago Fire Department came to Park Tower to discuss safety issues. During the two presentations he was able to dispel incorrect assumptions on how to best handle such an emergency.

First and foremost, call 911 as soon as any emergency situation develops. If you become aware of a situation outside your unit, the most important thing is to **STAY IN YOUR UNIT**. Call 911 and ask them to provide details on the situation. 911 is a two-way system. Use it not only to give them information about an emergency, but to ask information as well. Be sure to tell them your location and unit number. To handle a fire in your unit, you should have a small fire extinguisher inside. Do not keep it in the kitchen as you might not be able to reach it if the fire is there; a better place is in a front closet or under the bathroom sink. Purchase an "ABC" extinguisher to insure that it will help put out most types of fire and know how to use it.

If the fire is too large, or if you cannot reach the extinguisher in your unit, use the extinguishers in the building stairwells. If the fire grows too quickly, leave the unit, close (but do not lock) the door behind you, and seek help from neighbors in calling 911.

If evacuation is necessary, a fire department employee will come to your door and tell you what to do. **Do not evacuate your unit unless you are instructed to do so.** The Fire Department does not recommend evacuation drills for residential buildings, but they do want you to know the location of the nearest stairwell.

In accordance with Chicago's new Life Safety Code, Park Tower will be installing 1- and 2-way intercom systems within the next six years. This communication system will be for emergency use only.

The first part of the Life Safety Code will be completed within the coming months as we hire an engineer to assess our building in several safety measures according to the city's plan. Any necessary upgrades, including the intercom systems, will need to be completed by 2012.

**Current RCN Chicago Channel Line-up**

**The following channels are available to all Park Tower residents:**

- |    |                           |    |                         |
|----|---------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 1  | Impulse On-Demand         | 41 | TBS                     |
| 2  | QVC                       | 42 | CAN_CALL TV 42 (Access) |
| 3  | C-SPAN                    | 43 | Weather Channel         |
| 4  | WSNS-TV 44 (Telemundo)    | 44 | CNN                     |
| 5  | WMAQ-TV 5 (NBC)           | 45 | CNN Headline News       |
| 6  | WCIU-TV 26 (Independent)  | 46 | Fox News Channel        |
| 7  | WLS-TV 7 (ABC)            | 47 | CNBC                    |
| 8  | WPWR TV 50 (UPN)          | 48 | MSNBC                   |
| 9  | WGN-TV 9 (WB)             | 49 | MUTV (City PD/FD)       |
| 10 | WGBO-TV 66 (Univision)    | 50 | Court TV                |
| 11 | WTTW-TV 11 (PBS)          | 51 | Comcast Sports Net      |
| 12 | WFLD-TV 32 (Fox)          | 52 | History Channel         |
| 13 | WCPX-TV 38 (PAX)          | 53 | Learning Channel        |
| 14 | WFBT-TV 23 (Independent)  | 54 | Animal Planet           |
| 15 | WXFT-TV (Ch 60)           | 55 | Discovery Channel       |
| 18 | WJYS                      | 56 | Disney                  |
| 19 | CAN-TV 19 (Public Access) | 57 | Nickelodeon             |
| 20 | WYCC TV (NCE Chicago)     | 58 | Cartoon Network         |
| 21 | CAN-TV 21 (Public Access) | 59 | Sci-fi Channel          |
| 22 | WBBM-TV 2 (CBS)           | 60 | Comedy Central          |
| 23 | MUTV (Government Access)  | 61 | Tech TV                 |
| 24 | CSPAN-2                   | 62 | HGTV                    |
| 25 | WCW (Local)               | 63 | Food Network            |
| 26 | Spike TV                  | 64 | MTV                     |
| 27 | FYI-TV 27 (Local Access)  | 68 | VH1                     |
| 28 | Fit TV                    | 69 | BET                     |
| 29 | Travel Channel            | 71 | FUSE                    |
| 30 | ABC Family Channel        | 72 | USA Network             |
| 31 | ESPN                      | 73 | FX                      |
| 32 | ESPN 2                    | 74 | TNT                     |
| 33 | ESP News                  | 76 | TV Land                 |
| 34 | ESPN Classic              | 77 | E!                      |
| 35 | Outdoor Life Network      | 78 | Galavision              |
| 36 | CAN TV 36 (Access)        | 79 | Soapnet                 |
| 37 | Golf Channel              | 80 | Oxygen                  |
| 38 | Speed Channel             | 81 | Hallmark Channel        |
| 39 | Fox Sports Chicago        | 82 | EWTN                    |
| 40 | Fox Sports World/Espanol  | 84 | A&E                     |
|    |                           | 85 | Bravo                   |
|    |                           | 86 | WE                      |
|    |                           | 88 | HSN                     |



- 89 Turner Classic Movies
- 90 AMC
- 95 Building Management Channel
- 96 Lobby Camera Channel
- 97 TV Guide Channel

**Those with Digital Boxes have the following extra stations:**

- 100 Starview-Local Stations
- 101 Starview-News & Info.
- 102 Starview-Movies & Music
- 103 Starview-Kids & Family
- 104 Starview-Entertainment
- 105 Starview-Sports
- 106 Starview-Lifestyle & Leisure
- 120 Noggin
- 121 Nick GAS
- 122 Nick Toons TV
- 123 Boomerang
- 124 Toon Disney
- 125 Discovery Kids
- 126 Nick Too
- 130 MTV 2
- 131 MTV Jams
- 132 VH1 Soul
- 133 VH1 Country
- 134 VH1 Classic
- 135 VHI Mega Hits
- 136 BET on Jazz
- 137 MTV Hits
- 138 MTV Spanish
- 140 Lifetime Movie Network
- 141 Lifetime Real Women
- 142 Sundance Channel
- 143 Ovation
- 144 Biography
- 145 Discovery Times
- 146 IFC
- 147 Science Channel
- 148 Discovery Wings
- 149 History International
- 150 BBC America

- 151 International Channel
- 152 Bloomberg
- 153 CNN fn
- 154 Discovery Health
- 160 Discovery Home & Leisure
- 161 Fine Living
- 162 DIY
- 165 FUEL
- 166 TVG
- 167 HRTV
- 168 Outdoor Life Network
- 500 iPortal
- 501 Zone4Play iTV
- 502 Weather iTV
- 503 Horoscope iTV
- 504 Fox Sports iTV

**The following channels are available for a Premium fee:**

- 16 STARZ!
- 17 Encore
- 92 Cinemax
- 93 The Movie Channel
- 94 Showtime
- 98 HBO
- 99 HBO Plus

**Important Numbers**

Management Office	773/769 - 3250
Park Tower Market	773/275 - 9130
Receiving Room	773/784- 3353
Health Club	773/769 -1513
Garage	773/271- 8859
Door Station	773/769 - 3083



## **Emergency Information**

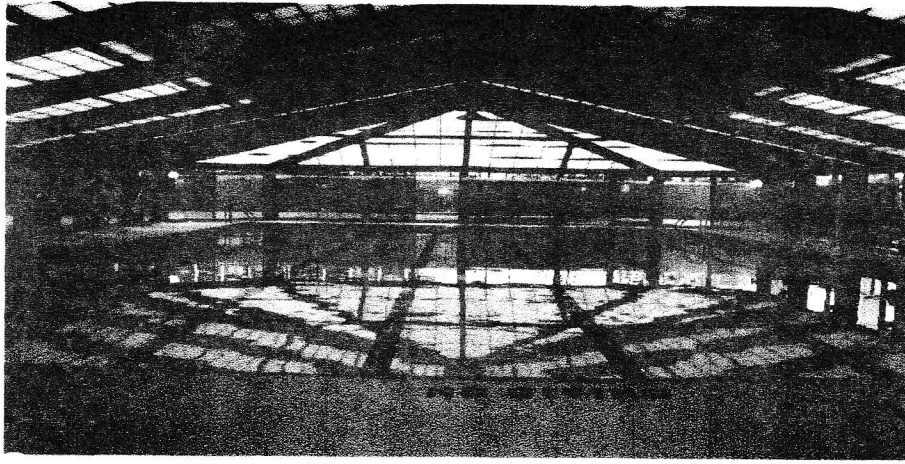
The Fire Department representative also spoke about emergency medical services. If paramedics come to your assistance, they will need to have some medical information and you may not be able to give it to them. They recommend that you post essential medical information on the door of your refrigerator. This is especially important if you live alone. The information should include your name, physician's name, medications you are taking, allergies, medical conditions and history, and emergency contact information.

Also be sure the Park Tower Management Office has emergency contact information for you. The forms were distributed with the March assessments. If you have not yet returned those to the office, please complete them and turn them in as soon as possible.

# **PROGRESS!**

### **Improvements to Office and Doorman Phone System**

In response to the power outage last summer, our management office is now equipped with a battery back up for the phone system. Should the building's power be interrupted for any reason, this battery system will keep the office and doorman's phone lines running.



### Health Club Updates

Several improvements are scheduled for the health club. The installation of a new treadmill machine has been completed. The facilities will see a facelift when the south racquetball court is remodeled to accommodate cardio-vascular equipment. Vending machines will be added to the space that the cardio-vascular machines now occupy. Additionally the pool will see improvements in 2005 to eliminate cracks on the bottom of the pool and repaint it. The frame of the whirlpool is scheduled for renovation in 2006.

This past year the health club committee arranged for qualified trainers to offer various classes in pilates, yoga, water aerobics, massage, and other beneficial health-enhancing activities. A new supervisor, Lawrence Munoz, was assigned to the health club, and conscientious attendants have been hired. Jodi Middleton is supervising these efforts to insure our health club runs smoothly and to the best benefit of its members.

### **Are You Talented?**

Park Tower Condominium can use your expertise. We would like to recruit owners with skills or knowledge to help in the following areas:

1. Selection of a cable provider when our contract with RCN ends late this year.
2. Writing and photography for future newsletters.
3. Structural or mechanical engineering to provide input in ongoing building issues.
4. Bulk purchase and use of gas, electricity, and water.

If you are able to help us in these ventures, please contact the management office.

# DO-IT-YOURSELF & SAVE! **CAR WASH**

Car Wash Now Available

As of March 1, we now offer a place to wash your car with the care only you can give.

The car-washing stall is next to the Garage Office on 1-P. The stall will be available any time, day or night. No reservations are taken for the use of the space. If a car is parked in the car-washing space, ask the attendant if he can move the parked car to another space; the attendant will move the parked car if another space is available. If another car is using the wash, ask the owner when he or she expects to be finished.

The cost is one guest parking coupon. Purchase guest parking coupons in Management Office. The garage attendants collect the coupons; they will not accept cash for use of the car wash. You must bring your own cleaning supplies. There is a water hose already available. Be careful with the hose so neither cars nor people are splashed with water. A wash will take 30 to 45 minutes. The space is for washing cars only. Waxing and other special treatments to vehicles are NOT allowed. Residents have requested this service, and we want to provide a functional way to meet that request. Please be considerate of others as you use this service.

## **Power Washing the Garage**

Not only do our cars need washing, but so does our garage. Be aware that a power wash will be scheduled for later this year. During this cleaning (as well as next year when repairs and reconstruction on the garage are scheduled), it will be necessary for cars to be moved for a period of time. If your car is not operable, it will be towed. So please take what steps are necessary to make sure your car is in running condition.

Watch for the notices about the power washing schedule and move your car out of the garage on the day and time of the wash. Or leave extra keys with the garage office so they can move your car for you. Make arrangements for your car to be moved at the specified times and avoid the aggravation having your car towed from the garage at your expense.