

On the Prom

Summer Edition

Promenade Towers Quarterly

July 2008

Changes at Promenade Towers



New Main Entrance

Artwork on the lobby wall and a table and lamp in the hall are still to come, but residents are already enthusiastic about other changes at Promenade Towers. "It's beautiful," said Ed Jones describing the lobby. Nate Delois said, "I love the look of the lobby and the new tile. Most of all I like the glass entrance." Bruce Shaw also likes the tile and the entrance and said, "I like the angle of the glass, the modern look." Portland Glass, the company that installed the entrance glass, was so impressed with the finished look that they're sending a photographer to take a picture for their web site.

Residents are also excited about the new landscaping, the repaving of the driveways and parking lots and the elevator renovations. "It's all coming together," said Tom Cushman. "The landscaping is nice, very nice," he added. Debbie Houge, Sales Manager of the Yarmouth office of Coldwell Banker and a new resident of Promenade Towers said, "The transformation of the building is amazing, and it keeps getting better!"

A Sense of Community

The greatest amenity that attracts prospective owners to condominiums is a sense of community according to the Publisher's Letter in the May 2008 *New England Condominium* magazine. A sense of community is something Promenade Towers can take pride in as more residents are becoming involved in condo activities.

On a recent Saturday morning, twelve volunteers (Bonnie Adams, Don Chalmers, Pauli Daniels, Kathleen Conneely, Roger Dionne, Tom Erskine, Eileen Hock, Gunnel Hansen, Einar Juhlin, John and Judith Rastl and Tracey Sparagis) held a work party in the carwash area and transformed our hall plants and trees. It was a beautiful morning, and the volunteers had a good time working with their neighbors. The plants and trees that had been covered with construction dust are now back in the hallways with a fresh new look.

Do you enjoy playing tennis in the park on the Prom? New residents Barbara and Jerry Donahue are looking for tennis players. Call Barbara on her cell phone (727-504-2109).

Have you ever played Mah Jongg, or would you like to learn? Lillian Lopes would like to organize a Mah Jongg group. Call her at 780-8090 for information.

There are many ways to get involved in our condo community. One way is to meet your neighbors at social events. Though a date is not yet set, we plan to have a party to celebrate our construction project and renovations. If you want to add your name to a call list for volunteers to bring refreshments, call Judith (775-1190). Help is always appreciated.

Know Your Neighbors Contest

Too easy! The plane and the flight suit gave it away. That's what many of you said about the photo of John Rastl in last edition's contest. Actually, one person guessed wrong. Those with the right answer were Stu Peller, Margie Thomsen, Pauli Daniels, Renee Boyle, Einar Juhlin, Barry Glew, Marilyn Peller, Tracey Sparagis, Gail Nichols, Tom Erskine and Marion Hopkins. Margie's name was drawn for a jar of Strawberry Apple Rhubarb Jam. This edition's photo is more of a challenge. Call or send your guess to Judith (775-1190) or jrastl@earthlink.net.



Quarterly Profile



Marilyn and Ed Collins - #252

Love at first sight! Ed Collins was in a sociology class in Huntington, West Virginia when he met Marilyn, a freshman at Marshall University. “Seven months later we eloped,” said Ed. That was three children (Karen, Rocky and Quinn), seven grandchildren and 55 years ago. It was the children, grandchildren and Ed’s other love, the Sea Dogs, that eventually brought them to Portland.

After completing his Ph.D. at Emory University, Ed taught at Birmingham Southern College in Alabama. “That was during the violent time of segregation, the civil rights movement and Bull Connor,” said Marilyn. After three years, they decided to leave Birmingham. Ed took a position at the University of Maine at Orono where he taught for 35 years, specializing in International Law. For seven months of those 35 years, Ed and Marilyn and their children lived in Scotland while Ed was a visiting professor at the University of Glasgow. “We rented a big farm,” said Marilyn, “and we had a lot of fun. We found good friends who made us a part of everything.” While living in Scotland, they took trips to Paris and Switzerland. Ed and Marilyn were also able to visit Greece, Italy, Spain, Yugoslavia, Austria, the Netherlands and Belgium when he took sabbaticals during his academic career.

When Ed retired, he and Marilyn sold their house in Orono and bought their fifth-floor condo in our building. Two of their children were in Portland, not to mention the Sea Dogs. “I go to a lot of games,” said Ed. “Our son-in-law, Tom, gets us

tickets. Every year a Sea Dogs player stays at Tom’s home throughout the season.” One of those players was Jonathan Papelbon who now pitches for the Red Sox.

Besides being sports fans, both Ed and Marilyn have been active in church, political and condo activities. Ed has served on our association’s Board of Directors, and Marilyn has donated many books to our library. Ed likes living here and says, “I like the view and having the pool to swim in with my grandchildren.” Marilyn likes her neighbors and the friendliness in the building. “I like hearing the ballgames in the park across the street,” she said, “and we enjoy walking along the Prom and often stop and watch kids play ball.”

When asked what they like about Portland, Marilyn said, “It’s a friendly city, and I love the Art Museum. We are so lucky to have that.” Ed said, “I like being near our grandchildren. I like the neighborhood restaurants like Blue Spoon.” Then, with a big smile, he added, “Sea Dogs!”

Library News

John Grisham, Dan Brown, Robert B. Parker and Robert K. Tanenbaum are some best-selling authors recommended by our residents. You can find several books by each of these popular writers in our library. While we still have only fiction on the shelves, we’ve added a basket for non-fiction, and Doris Kearns Goodwin’s outstanding biography of Abraham Lincoln, *Team of Rivals*, is currently on one of the library tables. Thank you to Ed and Marilyn Collins for donating this wonderful book. Also, thank you to Carol Reynolds and Marianne DiPietro for adding to our DVD collection and Debbie Houge for donating VHS movies.

Congratulations to Lifetime Resident

A *lifetime* resident of Promenade Towers is leaving us. In the fall, Sanjay Choolani will be going off to Bryant University in Rhode Island. Congratulations, Sanjay!

Hello to New Neighbors

Welcome to new residents: Dan Moreno (248); Don Chalmers & Bruce Shaw (115); Chris Hutchinson & Ross Burgess (226); Debbie Houge (153); Jerry & Barbara Donahue (148); Mahesh Pandey (147); Da Chang, Nils Ferm & Derek Strout (255); and Jeff Coover (135)