

On the Prom

Summer Edition

Promenade Towers Quarterly

July 2011

Getting Ready for the Grand Opening



Len Ney and John Rastl Remove Old Carpet

A commercial photographer, a retired school superintendent, a retired fighter pilot, a chef, your newsletter writer, a retired doctor and a paralegal—What do these people have in common? Answer—they all live at Promenade Towers and volunteered their time on our new fitness room project.

Some of you have stopped by to check on the progress of the room and have seen these workers in action. You've seen demolition, cleanup, sanding, drywall repair, tile installation, painting and more. Outside contractors did some electrical work and plumbing, and they installed the new air conditioner and glass entrance, but much of the work has been done by Promenade Towers residents. The cost of the project has been greatly reduced by these volunteers (listed alphabetically so you'll have to wonder who's who in the opening paragraph): Nils Ferm; Einar Juhlin; Nicole Nadeau; Leonard Ney, John and Judith Rastl and Mark Rockwood. Just the carpet removal alone (pictured above) saved the Association \$500.

At the June Board meeting, Cathy Bubier said, "I'm looking forward to this fabulous addition. I think a lot of people will use it." Rich Smith said, "I think it will enhance the value of the building, and it will be convenient for the people who live here." An article in the May 2011 issue of *New England Condominium* points out that, second only to location, a property's amenities "often sway the

balance for a potential buyer." The article also notes that a fitness-related amenity is a health benefit for condo residents.

The new flooring and exercise equipment have been ordered and will be installed soon. We won't have the Grand Opening until the TV's on the exercise equipment are hooked up to cable and other details are complete, but the room will be available for residents to use as soon as the equipment has been installed.

At the Grand Opening, Chris Brewer from the Workout Fitness Store will provide instructional training on all the equipment, including a demonstration of exercises and proper body positioning on strength equipment and programming options on the cardiovascular equipment. When a date has been set, invitations will go out to all residents and owners. We hope you'll join the people who worked on the project in celebrating the Grand Opening of our fitness room. As new resident Dave Mathieu said, "It's going to be a great amenity."

Enjoy a Picnic in Our Backyard

The next time you're in the mood for a picnic, you won't have to go far. Have you seen the new picnic table behind the pool enclosure? Just pack a lunch and some drinks and go down and sit under the shade trees. What's not to love about summer in Maine?

Know Your Neighbors Contest

Thank you to everyone who called or emailed a guess in last edition's Know Your Neighbors contest. Only Len Ney, Margie Thomsen and Pauli Daniels guessed correctly that Cathy Bubier was the girl in the photo. The contest prize went to Pauli who won the drawing. Here's a new challenge. If you recognize the girl in this picture, call Judith Rastl (775-1190) or email your guess (jrastl@earthlink.net).



Quarterly Profile



Tom Leonhardt - #246

I've Been Everywhere—that song by Johnny Cash comes to mind when you hear about Tom Leonhardt and his travels throughout his career. He's "been everywhere, man." Well, almost. An organizational consultant specializing in associations, government, foundations and non-profits, Tom says, "I have worked in over forty countries." Tunisia, Morocco, India, Egypt and French-speaking Sub-Saharan Africa are some of the places he enjoyed most. He said his biggest client was the U.S. Agency for International Development, the arm of the government that works in developing countries.

Tom's travels began, though, before he started consulting. After college he joined the Peace Corps and spent two years in Ivory Coast, a country in West Africa. He said, "I did health education there and I worked with elementary age kids, teaching them to plant vegetable gardens at the schools."

After the Peace Corps and before he started consulting, Tom taught elementary school for nine years. Since moving to Portland, he retains a few clients, but makes time for local volunteer work. "I volunteer two mornings a week at East End Community School," he said.

Here at Promenade Towers, Tom volunteers as the chairman of the Social Committee. We can thank him and his committee for the great parties they organize and the group trips for residents. He also

puts together Welcome Bags and delivers them to new residents.

When Tom lived in Washington, D.C., he was a docent at the Textile Museum which is part of the Smithsonian. Now he's a docent at the Portland Museum of Art where he works at the Information Desk and conducts guided tours. "I also consult with Friends of the Eastern Prom," said Tom, "and I finished a strategic planning effort with the Bath, Maine Public Library."

Tom still likes to travel and says, "I love to explore; I'm having fun visiting towns in Maine." He likes New England, and when he was looking for a place to retire, "Portland was tops on the list," he said. "There's so much going on in Portland— theatre, music, art, food." He's a fan of so many of Portland's restaurants, including those in our neighborhood, that he couldn't name a favorite.

Asked why he chose Promenade Towers when he moved to Portland, Tom said he wanted to live in a large building so there would be a ready-made community. He likes being able to walk to the bus line and, of course, there's the view. The view from his unit is spectacular. He definitely found the ready-made community he was looking for. "People here have been so welcoming and friendly," he says. "Everybody has been just terrific." With all that he does for our condo community, we think Tom is pretty terrific, too.

Promenade Towers Keeps Getting Better

Summer resident Barbara Donahue says, "Every time we come back, the place looks better." Many residents have complimented the common areas and landscaping. The carpets were recently cleaned, as well as the hall, Community Room and Library windows, and the Community Room floor has been cleaned and sealed. A new improvement is the addition of crushed rock below the decks. Grass wouldn't grow there, and now service trucks can drive on the rocks by Building One to the generator room. All this, plus our sparkling pool; many agree that the pool looks better than ever.

Hello to New Neighbors

Welcome to new residents: David & Sheila Mathieu; Esly & Judy Caldwell; Tim & Rachel Higgins; Tyler Weidner; Josh Wolf; Richard Vannie & Linda Agnew; Albert & Helen Dijkman; Dan Sisson and Joe McGovern