

Volume 5 Issue 10

A Monthly Newsletter for the Residents of the Octagon Towers Condominium

November 2019

OCTAGON TOWERS CONDOMINIUM

1881 Washington Avenue Miami Beach, Florida 33139

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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

| Main | 305-673-6580 | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|--|--|--|
| Fax | 305-673-9169 | | | |
| Valet | 305-673-4563 | | | |
| After Hours Emergency | | | | |

......786-440-6157

OFFICE HOURS Mondays 7:00am - 12:00pm

Tuesdays 1:00pm - 5:00pm **Wed. and Fri.** 8:00am - 1:00pm **Thursdays**.... 3:00pm - 7:00pm





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November 11, 2019

To the Owners of Octagon Towers Condominium Association, Inc.

I am writing to provide you with an update regarding the challenges the association has faced since we were hired by the board of directors in September to provide day-to-day accounting services. My firm is Stroemer & Company, LLC, and we are what you would call a 'full service' CPA firm. Among the many tax, audit and accounting services we provide to our clients, we have extensive experience working with condominium associations. And we are excited about having the opportunity to work with you.

Octagon Towers has unfortunately faced unexpected delays and obstacles over the past two months. Basically there were three separate issues that all happened at about the same time that prevented you from making your monthly maintenance fee payments. None of which were caused by the association's board of directors or by us. Following is a

brief summary.

The first problem is that any owner who was signed up for automatic payment via ACH had to start over. The ACH forms with the prior management company were not transferred and the bank advised us to obtain new forms from all owners who wanted to participate. For owners on ACH, your October maintenance fees were not debited from your bank account and may still be due. Fortunately the ACH process is working as of November. If you would like to sign up for and pay your monthly maintenance fees by direct debit but are not currently enrolled, fill out and return the attached Authorization for Automatic Debit form to us.

The second issue was that the online payment website, <u>www.octagon-condo.com</u> was not available. New agreements had to be executed and the association account had to be migrated. Although this transition took longer than expected, as of the end of last week the website is now

Continued on page 2

Accountant (cont from page 1)

operational. Options include paying maintenance fees by electronic debit or by credit card.

The third challenge was due to an error by the bank. Many owners who mailed their check and related coupon to the bank lockbox had their envelopes returned instead of processed. The bank admitted its error and the P.O. Box is once again functioning properly. If you had any payments returned to you, please resend them to the bank lockbox for processing.

To summarize, there are many ways you can pay your monthly maintenance fees. Sign up for ACH and never worry about missing a payment. Or go to www.octagoncondo.com and pay your fees online. Or mail your check and coupon to the bank lockbox at Octagon Towers Condominium Association, Inc., c/o Popular Association Banking, P.O. Box 164703, Miami, FL 33116.

To find out about the status of your account, you can call our customer service number at 305-668-3845, or you can check yourself when you log onto your account at www.octagoncondo.com. When you call us, be patient as we have recently received many calls from other owners from Octagon Towers as well as other associations due to the bank lockbox and other issues. If we do not answer your call, leave us a message and your

call will be returned. I apologize to any owner who feels they have not received our best service. I assure you that your call is important to us and we will help to resolve your issue as quickly as possible.

I hope you now have a better understanding of the recent challenges your association and new accounting firm have had to face and overcome. Hopefully all matters are finally resolved and operations will quickly return to normal. I can assure you that your board of directors and your new accounting firm have worked hard throughout this transition and will continue to do so for you.

Sincerely, Marc Berenfeld, CPA

A Thanksgiving Blessing

May your stuffing be tasty
May your turkey plump,
May your potatoes and gravy
Have nary a lump.
May your yams be delicious
And your pies take the prize,
And may your Thanksgiving dinner
Stay off your thighs!

-Unknown





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AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT FOR PREAUTHORIZED PAYMENTS Automatic Checking Deductions

| Unit Owner Name(s): | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| ID #; Account # or Unit #: | | | |
| I (we) hereby authorize OCTAGON TOWERS CINC., hereinafter called the COMPANY, to initial depository institution listed below, to debit the sar participation in this program involves deduction from the can be subject to corrections and/or adjustments as | ize entries to my (our) account at the me to such account. I understand my rom my account listed below, which | | |
| Unit Owner's Bank Name: | | | |
| Bank Address: | | | |
| City: State: | Zip Code: | | |
| Routing or ABA Number: | | | |
| Account Number: | | | |
| Type of Account (check one): Checking | SavingsMoney Market | | |
| Due Date and Amount Due: First day of each | ach month \$ | | |
| This Authorization is to remain in full force and etwritten notification from me (or either of us) of its manner as to afford the COMPANY & Banco Popit. | termination in such time and in such | | |
| Signature of Homeowner | Date | | |
| Signature of Homeowner | Date | | |

Attention Homeowners: Please attach a copy of a voided check to verify bank information. Returned or rejected ACH's are subject to late fees and other bank charges.

This form and voided check must be mailed directly to the association's accountants: Stroemer & Company LLC, Attn: Customer Service; 14400 NW 77th Court, Suite 206, Miami Lakes, Florida 33016. Requests must be received by the 15th of the month to be activated for the following month.

Ice Cream **Pumpkin Pie**

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 package (9 ounces) prepared graham cracker pie crust
- 1 pint vanilla ice cream softened
- 1 can (16 ounces) pumpkin
- 1 cup whipped cream
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

INSTRUCTIONS:

Fill piecrust with ice cream; freeze until solid. In medium bowl, combine pumpkin, whipped cream, sugar, pumpkin pie spice and salt. Spoon mixture over frozen layer of ice cream in crust; freeze until solid.

To serve, remove pie from freezer and place in refrigerator one hour before serving. Slice and serve with additional whipped cream, if desired.

Cooking tip: Frozen non-fat yogurt and fat-free whipped topping may be used in place of ice cream and whipped cream.



Commissioner **Eileen Higgins** District 5



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f/CommishEileen



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