MAR DEL PLATA
Monthly Newsletter

Volume 16 Issue 1 | A Newsletter for the Residents of The Mar Del Plata Condominium | April 2025

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello everyone,

As you can hear and see, the construction is making significant strides, and now it's time for us to focus on the window replacement. We're moving forward with the necessary repairs and upgrades, bringing us closer to our goal.

Not fun. I'm not looking forward to it, myself, but it's a necessary plotline we must see through to the end and resolve. Deterioration, corrosion, and overzealous regulations and costs are the villains here. You can put yourselves down as heroes for as much as you've borne and have hung in. We truly appreciate your patience and understanding during this process.

Luckily, our excellent staff, concrete contractors, and engineers are here to see us through. As Nelson has explained, we are heading down line by line until all the windows are installed. We will start on line 6, wrap counterclockwise around the south side, and finish on line 7 in this order: 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 10, 9, 8, 7. The entire process of ordering and receiving the new windows is expected to take [8 to 10 weeks]. Be sure to give yourself plenty of time and order your windows before the install gets to you.

There is talk in Tallahassee of eliminating all or portions of property taxes. That would be a welcome respite after years of unbridled regulations, insurance costs, property tax increases, and construction costs. DeSantis is for it, but to be expected (and convenient), local governments are not. Inflation has worked well for our city government by raising property values and taxing our homes with ever-increasing assessments. They'll cry and say, "What about our schools?" or "What about our parks?" Well, I remember when we voted for a state lottery that was to be used to fund our schools. What happened to that? A vote may most likely be in the offing, so be sure to make your opinion known.

Lastly, I'd like to remind you that some of our staff (Gonzalo and Gloria) have been out of work for an extended period and could most likely use assistance. If you'd like to donate, please contact our management office, and they can direct you.

Happy Trails,
Ernesto

Did You Know?: April is National Kite Month

- In ancient China, it was believed that kites could ward off evil spirits. Today, the kite is regarded as a symbol of good luck.
- The first recorded attempt to use kites to obtain scientific data occurred in 1749 when two Scottish scientists, Alexander Wilson and Thomas Melville, fastened thermometers to kites in order to record the temperature of the air at high altitudes.
- In 1847, chief engineer T.G. Hulett used a kite to string the first steel cable over the Niagara River in order to continue construction of a suspension bridge over the gorge.
- In 1887, E. D. Archibald, an English meteorologist, took the first aerial photograph by attaching a camera to his kite.
- In 1898, a modified Hargraves Box Kite rose more than two miles over the Earth's surface to a height of 12,471 feet (3,801 meter) above Milton, Massachusetts. Today's kits are restricted by aviation rules to fly no more than 300 feet high or within three miles of an airport.
- Gugliemo Marconi, inventor of the wireless telegraph, used a hexagon kite in 1901 to lift an antenna four hundred feet in order to receive the first radio signal ever transmitted across the ocean.
- During World War II, kites bearing pictures of enemy aircraft were used by the United States Navy for target practice. Huge box kites were also flown above American war ships to ward off attacking enemy aircraft. Long steel wires were suspended from each kite, causing damage to any approaching planes.
- The largest kite in the world is flown each year in Hoshubana, Japan, a small village near Tokyo. The kite measures 36 feet wide and 48 feet long and weighs nearly a ton. It can take 50 or more men to send the kite aloft.

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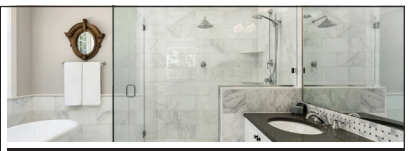

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