# The Liberty Letter

Liberty Tower Condominiums

December 2003



# Liberty Tower Home Owners Association

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# **Board of Directors**

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(asst. treasurer)
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Manager

Lisa Hays

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# **Dues Increase Approved; Board Candidates Set**

LT owners will see their dues increase 5 percent effective Jan. 1. Notices of the specific amounts are being distributed to all owners.

The additional funds will be incorporated into the 2004 budget — including building improvements.

Owners will be casting ballots this month for two board seats. Candidates vying for the positions are Armella Glenn, Jim Pinkerton and Virginia Walker. Candidate resumes and ballots will be distributed in the annual meeting packets.

The annual meeting is set for Jan 6, 2004.

In accordance with LT's bylaws, ballots can be submitted to the manager's office or at the annual meeting.

To speed the vote tabulation process, residents are encouraged to submit completed ballots to the manager's office prior to Jan. 1.

## **Liberty Unplugged: A Learning Experience for All**

Experience is a great teacher in emergencies.

The three-day electrical outage that began Nov. 1 brought a realization of the building's dependence on electricity. As AEP/PSO personnel explained, the outage was unique in its causes.

Even though outages are rare, there will likely be a "next time." When that occurs, a plan should be available to assist residents and guide responses.

The LTHOA Policy Committee will be working with staff and residents to prepare and distribute an emergency/disaster plan



based on some of the practical realities realized during the recent extended power outage.

Some measures have already been taken. A telephone line not reliant on electricity has been installed at the front desk. All stairwell doors are being marked with the corresponding floor numbers. Improvements are being made to stair

exit transitions on the 6th floor.

Batteries are being replaced in the stair and hallway emergency lights. However, residents should remember they are only designed to work for an hour to allow for immediate evacuation.

Other more long-term measures are also being evaluated.

Elderly or infirmed residents who may require assistance during an emergency are maintained on a log in the lobby immediately available to emergency personnel. Affected residents are encouraged to check and assure their information is on the log.

### Prepare and Maintain Supplies for the 'Next Time'

Crises such as a major power outage or fire are very rare at LT, but that does not alleviate the need for personal preparation.

Residents should prepare and maintain emergency supplies in case there is a "next time." Emergency officials say with conviction that it's not a matter of if, but when an emergency will strike.

Each resident should keep at least one working flashlight, extra batteries, a battery powered radio, at least five gallons of drinking water and an emergency phone that does not require electricity in their unit at all times. These supplies should be checked regularly to assure they are

usable in an emergency.

Additionally, residents should be familiar with stairway escape paths from their units to the street. Also, get to know neighbors and make sure those in need are taken care of should an emergency occur.

Should residents need immediate help, always call 911.

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# Happenings ...

#### **PARTY TIME**

Don't forget to sign up for the annual Liberty Tower Christmas Party — set for Friday, Dec. 19, from 7 to 10 p.m. in the 7th floor clubroom. There will be plenty of food, drink and, of course, good times. Sign up sheets are located in the lobby.

#### COOL YULE DÉCOR

A special thanks goes to Scott Williams, Rusty Kidd and the other residents who brought plenty of holiday cheer to LT's lobby area. The new decorations look great! Also, the lights around the 7th floor balcony railing have given the building distinction among its downtown counterparts. The job was well done!

#### LIMITED ACCESS

To keep the LT community safe, residents are asked to be very careful with their card access keys. Residents should never loan them to family and friends for access. All residents are asked to use their cards anytime they need access into the building and not rely on front desk personnel to let them in.

#### FILTER REPLACEMENT

Last month's survey for furnace filter replacement and smoke detector checks received plenty of responses. Maintenance staff will be checking and servicing the equipment over the next few months as time allows.

#### STUCCO REPAIRS BEGUN

A contractor has begun making stucco repairs to several balcony ceilings where wear and damage are greatest. Cold weather will likely make this a slow process. The results will be evaluated for repairs to additional balcony ceilings. Also, plans are in the works to water test the north façade to locate water leaks before replacing the 7th floor clubroom carpets.

Visit the Web for the Latest News www.libertytower.us

(Maintained by Bill Johnson)

#### From the Tresident ....

#### Nov. 1 Reminds Us to 'Love Thy Neighbor'

Nov. 1 was a day that we will remember for a long time. In all the things that have happened to us this year, I believe this was the most difficult to handle.

Some problems that we experienced this year did not effect the same anxiety and confusion that was caused by the power outage we had on that day. With the cooperation of all those who volunteered their time and energy and pitched in to assist with the many tasks that had to be done during this emergency, everyone in the building was taken care of.

Seeing that their neighbors got down the stairs that were pitch black after the emergency lighting went off was a big help. Several people went up and down the 24 floors climbing those stairs in the dark. They went around knocking on doors seeing that everyone's needs were taken care of.

After our staff was notified, they came down and were in the middle of doing their part. Thanks to all those who did their part in seeing us through this problem.

For 30 years, this building was not tested with this kind of emergency. We can all look back and think of what should have been in place to

have met this kind of big problem when it happened. I think it has been a wakeup call to all of us.

We have already taken steps to alleviate the pitfall we endured. It is time to get to know who our next door neighbors are and what we can do to help them. Each floor should help one another when we have a problem like this. Remember the Commandment: "Thou Shall Love Thy Neighbor As Thyself" and our community will be blessed.

I hope that everyone has a wonderful holiday season. For our service men who are away from their families so that our safety at home is secure, we pray that the Lord bless them and keep them. May they be together soon

We still have a month left in 2003. Our staff is working hard to finish a lot of projects they have before them. There is decorating to do right after Thanksgiving Day to make our entrance and club rooms beautiful. They have big plans to get the job done right. There will be many gatherings of families and friends. We will do our part in seeing it is well decorated so everyone who comes will be proud to show it off.

#### Commentary ...

#### **Always Remember the Important People**

Well I could certainly add my two cents worth here about the power outage. However, I think there's been plenty said already.

Speaking of two cents, we'll be paying more soon with the dues increase approved by the LTHOA board. I don't mind shelling out more if the results are a better building. Enough said about that one.

Now to something really important. I was flying back from my Thanksgiving vacation and landed in Tulsa at the height of travel time. It didn't take long to observe the lack of housekeeping at our airport. It reminded me that when left to their own

devices, many Americans can be equated with pigs. That hits home when funds are not there to keep an army of people cleaning up mass messes in a timely manner.

We at LT are usually a pretty tidy bunch. However, any congregation of people is going to create some mess— as well as wear and tear on the facilities. And, there are a few of the pig types among us that don't know what a trash can is used for.

Don, Johnny and Willie certainly deserve a special pat on the back for their yeoman efforts during the power outage. But, it is their everyday work that keeps them special and important.