



# Mayfair Messenger

A publication of the Mayfair Civic Association  
*Neighbors making a difference since 1945*

**April 2021**  
Volume 24, Issue 2

## April 8 Meeting – Zoning & Development

Our next meeting will be **held via Zoom at 6:30pm** on April 8. Please plan to attend to address any concerns you have regarding any matter indicated in this newsletter, as well as any matters relevant to the focus topic of Zoning & Development. Zoom meeting attendance details will be sent out to our email list before the meeting. To join our email list, visit <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/mayfair-civic>.



### Civic Association Officers

- President:** Ron Duplack, [rduplack@rieckcroty.com](mailto:rduplack@rieckcroty.com)
- Vice President:** Tom Keating, [keatingtj@gmail.com](mailto:keatingtj@gmail.com)
- Vice President, Community Relations:** Walter Eliassen, [wjebde@aol.com](mailto:wjebde@aol.com)
- Treasurer:** Gavin Chase, [gavinmargie@yahoo.com](mailto:gavinmargie@yahoo.com)

### Committee Heads

- Beautification:** Tom Keating, [keatingj@gmail.com](mailto:keatingj@gmail.com)
- Membership:** Darlene McDermott, [darlene\\_mcdermott@hotmail.com](mailto:darlene_mcdermott@hotmail.com)
- Newsletter:** Ryan Kinderman, [mayfair-civic-newsletter@googlegroups.com](mailto:mayfair-civic-newsletter@googlegroups.com)
- Zoning/Development:** Christopher Lambesis, [chris@lambesis.net](mailto:chris@lambesis.net)

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## Letter from the President

Ron Duplack

We hope you are faring well and have been able to secure a vaccination appointment at one of the many sites throughout the City.

Our last meeting featured a discussion of pending issues on the Congressional level, led by Dana Fritz, aide to Congressman Quigley, whose visit was delayed by travel changes. Topics included Covid vaccination roll-out, pending gun safety initiatives prompted by recent shootings, HR-1 election reform efforts, and the Congressman’s recent efforts to implement changes to improve mail deliveries. Erika Wozniak provided a 39th Ward update, including participatory budget polling results, CDOT installation of safety cameras in the 16th and 17th District, and a reminder that the Ward Office has reopened with slightly reduced hours.

We were advised that the office/residential development at 4865 N Elston is moving forward, with design changes being implemented to accommodate community-expressed concerns. We also heard that the CPD continues to shift officers from the 17th District to Districts that suffer greater policing/safety issues.

Our next meeting will be held via Zoom at 6:30pm on Thursday, April 8. See contact information in the notice posted elsewhere in this Newsletter. Hope to see you there.

### 2021 MCA Meetings

Membership meetings are generally held on the second Thursday of every month. No meetings are held in January, July, or August. These are the remaining dates for 2021:

<b>April 8</b>	<b>September 9</b>	<b>December 9</b>
Zoning & Development	Traffic & Parking	Holiday Party
<b>May 13</b>	<b>October 14</b>	
Mayfair Park	Elections	
<b>June 10</b>	<b>November 11</b>	
TBA	Annual Holiday Planning	

These are *suggested* meeting dates and topics, subject to any comments you may provide, but will be followed in the absence of alternative suggestions. Our Board generally meets during the intervening months.

## Membership Meetings

Here are some more details from the February and March meetings of the Mayfair Civic Association.

### Business owners considering “special service area” to help with funding

Alderman Nugent briefly mentioned that discussions have started among some business owners in the ward on the possibility of forming a “special service area” (SSA) to help provide resources focused on the business development in the area. The talks are still very early, and no boundaries

have been set yet for the SSA, but it would likely include businesses in the Pulaski/Elston tri-corner. For an example of another SSA nearby, and an explanation of SSAs in general, see the info on the Albany Park & Irving Park SSA at <https://northrivercommission.org/services/>.

### Development at 4865 N Elston Avenue

The property at this address, near the Sokol Community Center, was acquired by a developer, who is planning to add 2 floors above the existing 1-story structure. ([Continued on page 5](#))

## Beautification

Thomas Keating

### Volunteer to Help with Spring Planting!

#### FREE - FREE - FREE

YES! I said FREE!!! Right now, here in Mayfair... I am talking about an exercise program that is recommended by many doctors and health programs. This is a chance for you to keep your muscles, lungs, and other organs in good working order. The program comes with lots of FREE UV rays, and all the oxygen you need.

We already have a group of community members taking advantage of this locally-developed activity. A small bunch of people planted the roots in Mayfair over twenty years ago at one very visible location. The results at that time were so successful that more people have joined, and more than 20 locations have been developed in Mayfair.



As you move around our community take note of the people who are getting their exercise while they are helping clean and beautify Mayfair. Stop and say “Hello” or, better yet, **Join In The Activity!** You don't need to go to a fancy gym with its expensive equipment and fees, just get involved with our **FREE** Gardening Program.

In April we start cleaning, and preparing the gardens for the Season. During early May we order a bunch of Annual Flowers to help add early color. As the season goes on we usually get more plants from donations that are used to fill in any bare areas that need a boost.

We will be following COVID-19 guidelines and would love for you to Join our Group... "Gardening with FREE Exercise!".

Call: Tom Keating at 773-910-1934

## Neighborhood Issues

In past issues of this newsletter, this section used to be called “Neighborhood Checklist” but, given the need for ongoing attention to and thought towards addressing long-standing systemic issues in our community and the City, I decided that the term “checklist” is too limiting. We’ll continue to include information and perspectives in this section that highlight areas of concern from members of the Mayfair community.

### Community Safety

Alderman Nugent held a virtual Community Safety Town Hall on Tuesday, March 23 to discuss recently-reported incidents of shots fired. The incidents include:

- On March 10, 2021, the Chicago Police Department (CPD) responded to reports of shots fired at the intersection of Peterson and Cicero Avenues. Shell casings were recovered.
- On March 10, 2021, CPD and the Northeastern Illinois University Police Department (NEIUPD) performed an investigation surrounding reports of shots fired on campus. The campus was placed on lockdown and given the “all clear” following an extensive search.
- On March 12, 2021, CPD responded to reports of shots fired and recovered shell casings at the intersection of Kilbourn and Sauganash Avenues.
- On March 12, 2021, reports of shots fired in the 3900 block of West Glenlake Avenue were called into the 17th Police District. The incident involved an off-duty Chicago police officer. No one was injured in this incident. The Civilian Office of Police Accountability is investigating this incident.

The meeting was attended by Chicago Police Department Deputy Chief Roberto Nieves, Commander Ron Pontecore from the 17th District, and Lieutenant Terry Forbes from the 16th District, along with many members of the community.

The Alderman communicated her outrage at the increase in violence, and said that she has advocated for an increase in policing resources in the area, and will continue to do so. One thing that may make efforts for increased police coverage in the area more difficult, mentioned by a CAPS representative during the March 11 Mayfair Civic

Association membership meeting, is that the city is asking each police district to give up six officers for summer patrols, *in addition to* the already-existing local resource reductions related to the pandemic and protests. More information on this can be found in the [Membership Meetings](#) section and, if you have further questions, please reach out to the [CAPS office](#).

Chicago Police representatives at the meeting said that all of the reported incidents involve members of two rival gangs. Police found narcotics an incident right outside the NEIU campus, and the police think that the gang violence may be narcotics-related. Commander Pontecore discussed another shooting incident in the 3400 block of West Foster Avenue, near Kimball Avenue that occurred on March 22 in the late afternoon. He said that it was believed to be an isolated incident because it was near a library and “not many gang members hang out around libraries.”

Deputy Chief Nieves asked that people call 911 whenever they think they’ve heard shots fired or witnessed suspicious activity or a crime. Decisions on policing resource allocation are based on 911 call volume, which is much lower in this area than elsewhere in the city, which results in resources being drawn away. Nieves said that he’s aware of people posting about incidents on social media sites, and emphasized that people should call 911 before posting to these sites because the police do not monitor these sites, nor are they staffed to do so.

One cause for the increase in violence, Deputy Chief Nieves said, was that gang members that have been arrested on gun charges during the COVID-19 pandemic have not been held in jail. Additionally, the court system is shut down due to the pandemic, so the risks involved in committing these crimes are lower, and offenders know this. One attendee heard that the gang members live outside of our neighborhoods and asked what is bringing them into the area, but Nieves said that gang members live in the area and in neighborhoods all across the city. “They live here, not on the outside”, he said. Nieves also remarked that he worries that, as things start opening up, things will get worse before they get better. ([Continued on page 4](#))

## Neighborhood Issues

### Community Safety (cont'd)

Community members in attendance were talking among themselves during the meeting via the Zoom chat feature. People expressed their desire to learn about and build towards long-term solutions that address the fundamental things that cause gang violence. Alderman Nugent briefly listed her efforts in this area, working with the Salvation Army, NEIU, after-school programs, and CAPS outreach with programs like "Hooked on Fishing". On the other end of the spectrum, other members in attendance threatened to begin hiring personal security for their neighborhoods if there wasn't an increase in policing resources in the area.

More information on the community safety meeting is available in the March 31, 2021 issue of the Nadig Newspaper, and on the web at [nadignewspapers.com](http://nadignewspapers.com).

### The HOLE Truth!

By Thomas Keating



A few years ago I hit a pothole at Elston and Lawrence. The front wheel got bent and the tire blew out. The vehicle veered into a pole. The event cost over \$3,000.00 to repair. Well, magically

the city repaired the pothole the next day.

Neighbors, *please* report potholes to 311 or their web page (<https://311.chicago.gov>)! You can also report them to our Alderman's office at 773-736-5594. You will need the location's address, and description of the pothole.

Thank you for your help.



### CAPS webinar on Vehicular Hijacking

The 17<sup>th</sup> District CAPS office is holding a webinar on **April 6 at 6:30pm** on how to prevent car hijacking. You can register in advance at <https://bit.ly/3wqOsu0>. For more information, contact the 17<sup>th</sup> District CAPS office at 312-742-4588, or via email at [caps.017district@chicagopolice.org](mailto:caps.017district@chicagopolice.org).

### CAPS Meetings (Beat 1722)

CAPS meetings for Beat 1722 are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is on April 21 at 6:30pm. Due to COVID-19, meetings are being held on Zoom. To attend, please email [caps.017district@chicagopolice.org](mailto:caps.017district@chicagopolice.org) to RSVP, and you will receive an invite for the meeting.

If you have questions or comments, please contact the CAPS office at 312-742-4588, or email [caps.017district@chicagopolice.org](mailto:caps.017district@chicagopolice.org). Learn about the CAPS program at <https://home.chicagopolice.org/office-of-community-policing/how-caps-works>.

## Membership Meetings

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### Development at 4865 N Elston Avenue (cont'd)

The first floor will be a commercial space, and the top two floors will be residential apartments. The developer is seeking a zoning classification change for the property, from C1-2 to C1-3. The Alderman has received letters of support for this development from local community groups. Input from the community has included concerns over snow removal and the location of dumpsters. For information on zoning, see <https://secondcityzoning.org/zones/>.

### Possible further police reduction in neighborhood over the summer

A memo has gone out to police districts about resource reallocation over the summer. Districts are being asked to each give up six officers. This reduction is *in addition to* officers already diverted for other initiatives and community outreach. A CAPS representative indicated that six officers is a significant percentage of the remaining force. Details are being worked out, and Alderman Nugent is working to keep as many officers as we can.

### CAPS office working on community policing guidelines of consent decree

A CAPS representative talked a bit about the work that the office is doing on efforts to fulfill the guidelines of the consent decree related to community policing, which includes the police building and sustaining community relationships to understand and effectively problem-solve with the community on their issues and needs.

The 17<sup>th</sup> District has been working on forming and meeting with various groups related to areas of need, including a youth council and domestic violence committee. The COVID-19 pandemic has complicated these engagement efforts as many communication channels, such as school outreach programs, have been largely closed. Additionally, the District is still working to figure out its role in these community groups and other parts of the consent decree. For more information on the consent decree, visit <http://chicagopoliceconsentdecree.org/>.

### Congressman Quigley's Office

Here are some links to what our Congressman has been up to:

- Interview with Congressman on experience during Capitol attack: <https://fb.watch/3BAIoDbuhy>
- Gun safety legislation: <https://quigley.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/quigley-fitzpatrick-swallow-diaz-balart-reintroduce-bipartisan-gun>
- GYMS Act, to help fitness centers struggling from the pandemic: <https://quigley.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/quigley-fitzpatrick-swallow-diaz-balart-reintroduce-bipartisan-gun>

#### Problems with Trash or Rats?

If you've got problems with trash where it shouldn't be, missing trash cans, rats in your area, etc., call 311 or contact:

#### Chicago Division and Sanitation Offices

4808 W Wilson, 312-744-2333 or 312-744-2336

#### 39<sup>th</sup> Ward Superintendent

312-459-7286

#### Rodent Control

312-746-5232 or 312-746-5233

## Updates from the Alderman

Samantha Nugent, 39<sup>th</sup> Ward

Here are some selections from the Alderman's recent newsletters and communications.

### COVID-19 Vaccinations

Phase 1C of the COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout in the City of Chicago is scheduled to begin on Monday, March 29.

This group includes:

#### Anyone 16-64 with underlying medical conditions

These conditions are known to increase or may increase the risk of developing severe illness from COVID-19.

- Cancer (current diagnosis).
- Cardiac, cardiovascular, and cerebrovascular disorders (including heart disease, coronary artery disease, and hypertension or high blood pressure).
- Chronic respiratory disorders (including cystic fibrosis, moderate to severe asthma, pulmonary fibrosis, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease/emphysema [COPD]).
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) including from blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids, or use of other immune weakening medicines.

#### All other essential workers

- Food and beverage service
- Higher education
- Clergy and religious organizations
- Finance
- Legal
- Media
- Other community- or government-based operations and essential functions
- Personal care services and hygiene
- Retail
- Transportation and logistics

The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) is tentatively scheduled to begin Vaccination Phase 2, which includes all Chicagoans age 16 and over on May 1.

For the most up to date information, visit the CDPH website at

<https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid19-vaccine/home/vaccine-distribution-phases.html>.

While we continue making progress in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, we must all keep wearing masks, maintaining social distance, and washing our hands to keep each other safe.

### Vaccine Availability and Appointments

Vaccine supply is limited at this time, but eligible Chicagoans can sign-up for vaccine availability notifications. There are a few ways to do so.

- Through your private medical provider and their health system
- At retail pharmacies, such as Walgreens and CVS
- At dedicated city and state vaccination sites
  - Visit [ZocDoc.com/vaccine](https://www.zocdoc.com/vaccine) for more information.
- At large employment sites
  - The City will reach out to large employers to offer vaccinations to all the employees that work on-site.

### US Postal Service mail delivery issues

I have been working with Congressman Mike Quigley's office to address USPS mail delivery issues throughout the 39th Ward. I recently wrote to Postmaster Wanda Prater to convey the gravity of the issue. You can read the letter at <https://bit.ly/3rNF6Fk>.

If you are experiencing problems with your mail delivery, please complete the form at <https://bit.ly/2QSI2DF>. Once received, we report this to Congressman Quigley's Office so it is escalated to the USPS.

## Updates from the Alderman

Samantha Nugent, 39<sup>th</sup> Ward

### Participatory Budgeting completed

39th Ward  
Participatory  
Budgeting

CYCLE 2

The second cycle of Participatory Budgeting (PB) in the 39<sup>th</sup> Ward came to an end on February 12. Over 1,500 residents, age 14 and over, voted

on how to spend \$500,000 to improve their communities. Of the 22 projects on the ballot, eight projects will be funded. Planning for implementation will begin in April, with construction happening as soon as Summer 2021 for many projects.

Thank you to the Participatory Budgeting Committee for their hard work and continued dedication to the process. Thank you to all the community members who submitted

project proposals and ideas for improvements across the Ward.

To view the funded projects, visit <https://aldermannugent.com/participatory-budgeting>.

### Visit and Subscribe!

Visit <https://aldermannugent.com/> to subscribe to Alderman Nugent's newsletter and learn about what she's doing for the 39<sup>th</sup> Ward. The 39th Ward Public Service Office is open to the public from 9am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. While the office is open for walk-ins, appointments are encouraged. You can schedule an appointment by calling or emailing our office. Should you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact us at 773-736-5594 or via email at [Ward39@CityOfChicago.org](mailto:Ward39@CityOfChicago.org).

## St Edward School & Parish 4343 W Sunnyside Avenue

Jenny Dreyer

St. Edward School's biggest annual fundraiser **Big Red House Party** was a huge success! The school community thanks everyone who tuned in and donated. Proceeds from the Big Red House Party event include the support of educational resources and school improvements. **Big Red Thanks!**

These upcoming Community Events give you a night off from cooking and a chance to shop, and benefit St. Ed's! Flyers and more information can be found on [St. Edward School's website](#).

- **Wednesday, April 14th 4pm – 10pm, Lou Malnati's**, 986 N Avondale Ave, Chicago, 60641. Flyer needed; online code: FUNDSED21
- **Friday, April 23rd, in store 6pm – 8pm, Kendra Scott**, 4999 Old Orchard Shop Center East Ring Rd Suite C30, Skokie, 60077. Online: Thursday, April 22 (check St. Ed's website for link and code)

Thank you for your support!

Join us for our next **virtual Welcome Wednesday tour on Wednesday, April**

**14 from 8:30-9:30am**. This information session, Q&A and conversation with the principal and current school parents will offer you the opportunity to learn all about our **2017 National Blue Ribbon Exemplary High Performing School**. You can also contact [office@stedwardschool.com](mailto:office@stedwardschool.com) to schedule an in-person tour or individual Zoom tour with our principal. Discover all that St. Edward School offers!

St. Edward School celebrates 111 years of providing a Catholic education to children in grades PK3--8th grade. For more information, please visit our website at [www.stedwardschool.com](http://www.stedwardschool.com) or call the office at 773-736-9133 to learn more about our outstanding academic programs and extended care.



# Mayfair Messenger

## Go Green: Get the Mayfair Messenger via e-mail

Reading a paper copy of this newsletter? Have access to the Internet? Please consider reading an e-mail version instead (we won't share your e-mail address with anyone else).

To receive the *Mayfair Messenger* via e-mail, please send an e-mail to [mayfair-civic-newsletter@googlegroups.com](mailto:mayfair-civic-newsletter@googlegroups.com).

Thanks for helping us stretch your membership dues!

## A note from membership

To keep your membership current for the following year, renewals will be billed in January and July. If you joined the association between May and October, your renewal will be billed in July. If you joined between November and April, you'll be billed in January.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation!

## A note from the editor

Please submit articles of interest or announcements of upcoming public and community events to [mayfair-civic-newsletter@googlegroups.com](mailto:mayfair-civic-newsletter@googlegroups.com) (the editor reserves the right to edit submissions for space and content; items may not appear if they're past the publishing date).

## Mayfair Civic Association Affiliations

Mayfair Civic Association is proudly affiliated with the following area organizations, working together for the good of the neighborhood!

- Mayfair Park Advisory Council (<https://www.mayfairpac.org/>)
- North River Commission (<https://northrivercommission.org/>)
- Northwest Arts Connection (<http://northwestartsconnection.org>)

## Publication Schedule

This newsletter is published on the first Thursday of February, April, June, September, and November. You can find issues at <http://www.mayfaircivic.org/newsletter>.

## Visit Us Online

To be notified when new issues of this newsletter are published, and of other neighborhood news, you can request to join our email list at <https://groups.google.com/g/mayfair-civic>. If you are a paid member of the Mayfair Civic Association, you will be added to this list automatically.

Also, we have a website! It's a bit out-of-date (we're working son that), but it's there. Check it out at <http://www.mayfaircivic.org>.

## Credits

This newsletter and its contents have been planned, composed, and edited by members of the Mayfair Civic Association. Special thanks to Ron Duplack, MCA president, and Carol Kroskey, the previous newsletter editor, who set the bar for quality.

**If you're already a member, please pass this on to a neighbor.**

Mayfair Civic Association Membership Application  
\$10 per household; \$6 for senior citizens

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out the above information, and return with your check to:

**Mayfair Civic Association**  
c/o Darlene McDermott  
4739 N. Kelso Ave  
Chicago, IL 60630-4353