



Mayfair Messenger

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

February 2021
 Volume 24, Issue 1

February 11 Meeting – Vaccinations and 2021 Planning

Our next meeting will be **held via Zoom at 6:30pm** on February 11. 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
Vice President: Tom Keating,
keatingtj@gmail.com
Vice President, Community Relations: Walter Eliassen,
wjebde@aol.com
Treasurer: Gavin Chase,
gavinmargie@yahoo.com

Committee Heads

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

In This Issue

Letter from the President.....1
 CAPS Meetings.....2
 Around the Neighborhood.....2-3
 Updates from the Alderman.....4
 St Edward School & Parish.....5
 Credits.....6

Letter from the President

Ron Duplack

We hope you are faring well and were able to safely navigate the holidays, related family visits, and school challenges.

Our last meeting focused on community safety concerns. We discussed the recent increase in activity, gunshots, tagging, etc., and 17th District and community responsive actions. These issues have abated somewhat, due in large part to winter weather.

Our meeting will be held via Zoom at 6:30pm on Thursday, February 11. See contact information at the notice elsewhere in this Newsletter. We will begin by seeking input regarding your experiences during the pandemic, and your ability to schedule appointments during the vaccination rollout. Hopefully, many of us will have been successful in obtaining an appointment by the time of our meeting. We will then discuss community issues and needs for planning action during 2021. Hope to see you on Zoom.

Please note that we are now in the second phase of the 39th Ward’s \$500,000 Participatory Budgeting Cycle (See details in “Updates from the Alderman”). This provides an opportunity to direct public funds to specific community projects. We encourage all MCA members to visit the Alderman’s site to review and place their votes.

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 rest of the dates scheduled for 2021.

March 11 Kedvale Playlot/Gardens	June 10 TBA	November 11 Annual Holiday Planning
April 8 Zoning & Development	September 9 Traffic & Parking	December 9 Holiday Party
May 13 Mayfair Park	October 14 Elections	

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.

Around the Neighborhood

Community Safety

The shootings continue in our neighborhood and surrounding areas. Since the last issue of this newsletter in November, there have been two more just in Mayfair. There has also been a sudden rise in carjackings this year.

Shootings

Carlos Cruz, 19 years old, was shot to death outside his home near the corner of Keystone and Wilson Ave on December 17. A woman and two men were shot on January 10 while sitting in a parked car near the corner of Sunnyside and Keystone Ave. The 32-year-old woman was shot in the head and back. One man, 32 years old, was shot in the arm and the other, also 32 years old, was shot in the back and leg.

Alderman Nugent and Chicago police Commander Pontecore have both indicated in community discussions that many of the shootings are gang-related, and that there have been gang leadership negotiations and turf wars going on recently that have potentially caused some of the increase in violence.

It isn't clear what the current status is of these shooting cases, but an inquiry has been made to the 17th District CAPS office about that. We've also inquired about the status and effectiveness of the "Custom Notifications" program, which has been run by the Superintendent's Office for about 12 years and is intended to provide support for individuals at high risk of becoming a victim or committing a shooting. We'll provide updates on these items when we receive them in future issues of this newsletter.

Carjackings

An article of the January 27 issue of the Nadig Newspaper indicated that, according to Alderman Nicholas Sposato of the 38th Ward, carjackings are up from an average of 2 ½ in 2020 to 8 per day in 2021. Apparently, many of these crimes are being committed by young people who want to share their actions on social media, which can then inspire "copycat crimes", according to Chicago police chief Brendan Deenihan.

During the January 24 CAPS meeting for beat 1711/1712, it was mentioned that one way that carjackers target people is by looking for running cars without people in them. With the cold weather, it's been very common to see many cars parked on the street running without anyone around for long periods of time in the weekday mornings, started with remote starters. Other safety tips can be found in the links below.

Here are a few links for more information:

- Carjacking safety tips: <https://home.chicagopolice.org/community-policing-group/safety-tips/>
- 17th District 2021 Beat Meetings Calendar and Beat Map: <http://www.mayfaircivic.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021-CAPS-Zoom-beat-meeting-calendar.pdf>
- "Custom Notifications" program: <https://home.chicagopolice.org/information/violence-reduction-strategy-vrs/>
- Shooting of Carlos Cruz: <https://chicago.suntimes.com/crime/2020/12/17/22187565/man-fatally-shot-mayfair-wilson-gun-violence>
- Shooting of three victims in a parked car: <https://chicago.suntimes.com/crime/2021/1/10/2223187/2-men-woman-wounded-albany-park-shooting>

CAPS Meetings (Beat 1722)

CAPS meetings for Beat 1722 are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is on February 17 at 6:30pm. Due to COVID-19, meetings are being held on Zoom. To attend, please email 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. Learn about the CAPS program at <https://home.chicagopolice.org/office-of-community-policing/how-caps-works>.

Around the Neighborhood

North Park Village Nature Center Park Advisory Committee



The North Park Village Nature Center at 5801 N Pulaski Rd now has a Park Advisory Committee (PAC). The process of forming the PAC was started by Kathy Fitzgerald in collaboration with Janita Tucker and Bob Parker in order to have a legal entity for raising funds for needed renovations to the Lobby and Discovery rooms of the Nature Center's building. However, a PAC is more than a way to raise funds, and between December and January, meetings were held with interested parties to discuss the goals of the PAC, elect officers, and brainstorm on possible committees.

Kyla Klein, who is also a member of the 39th Ward Participatory Budgeting team, was elected as President. She stated during the membership meeting on January 7 that she hopes the PAC can help make the Nature Center more widely-known within the community and beyond, rather than a "hidden gem", as it is often referred to as today. Kyla would also like more outreach to and collaboration with under-served as well as native members of the community.

Working to raise funds through Participatory Budgeting

The first big goal for the Nature Center PAC is to help raise the funds that are needed to renovate the Lobby and Discovery rooms. The rooms were originally built 105 years ago, and the building was converted to a Nature Center 40 years ago. The hospital tiles on the walls and old shelving units require updates.



This project will repurpose the ash wood from fallen trees for walls in the lobby, remove old cabinets and fixtures in the Discovery Room, allow room for updated nature displays, and improve the overall setting for nature education. The proposed renovation budget is a total of \$60,000. A generous donor has provided half of that amount, and the the PAC is hoping that it can raise the other half through the Participatory Budgeting process.

To learn more about how to vote in the Participatory Budgeting process, see the [Updates from the Alderman](#) section on page 4 of this newsletter.

For more information on the North Park Village Nature Center, visit <https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks-facilities/north-park-village-nature-center-park>. If you are interested in attending meetings of the PAC, you can send an email to naturecenteradvisorycouncil@gmail.com for future meeting dates.

Updates from the Alderman

Samantha Nugent, 39th Ward

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

COVID-19 Vaccinations

Chicago is currently working through Phase 1B vaccination efforts, which started on Monday, January 25. Phase 1B increases the people who are eligible for vaccinations to include frontline essential workers and residents 65 and above, with priority being given to those 75 and above. Vaccinations are by appointment only, and there are four ways to receive a vaccination:

1. Through your private medical provider. Many residents 65 and older will get invitations from their health systems to make appointments to be vaccinated. If eligible, we recommend you call your primary care provider to make an appointment and learn more about your health system's plan to roll out the vaccine.
2. At retail pharmacies such as Walgreens and CVS. You can contact your pharmacies to check appointment availability.
3. At dedicated vaccination sites. The State and City will open citywide vaccination sites at places including hospitals, City Colleges, and sites set up by the National Guard.
4. At large employment sites. The City will reach out to large employers to offer vaccinations to all the employees that work on-site.

You can visit the City's [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) for the most up-to-date information on mitigations, vaccination, and testing.



We are excited to announce that **the 39th Ward Participatory Budgeting (PB) Voting Period is now open!** PB is a democratic process where community members directly decide how to spend part of a public budget (menu money). The process is lead in part by community representatives, who solicit ideas from neighbors, research needed improvements, and finalize the ballot.

For the second year, 39th Ward residents 14 years and older will have the opportunity to make their voices heard in how they would like to see \$500,000 of the 39th Ward's public budget for infrastructure improvements.

The PB Voting period closes February 12 at 11:59pm. Residents must register to vote at http://go.uic.edu/PB39_Vote. After registering, a unique access code to the ballot will be sent to your email.

This year's ballot features 22 projects. The projects can be viewed at AldermanNugent.com.

Visit and Subscribe!

Visit <https://aldermannugent.com/> to subscribe to Alderman Nugent's newsletter and learn about what she's doing for the 39th Ward. The 39th Ward Public Service Office is open virtually from 9:00am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Out of an abundance of caution, we are not open to the public. Please reach out should you have any questions, comments, or concerns at 773-736-5594 or via email at Ward39@CityOfChicago.Org.

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

39th Ward Superintendent
312-459-7286

Rodent Control
312-746-5232 or 312-746-5233

St Edward School & Parish 4343 W Sunnyside Avenue

Jenny Dreyer

Join us for a virtual **Welcome Wednesday tour** scheduled every **first Wednesday of the month thru June 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**. Discover all that St. Edward School offers!

Mark your calendars to virtually attend St. Edward School's biggest annual fundraiser, **Big Red House Party** on **Saturday, March 20, 2021 at 7pm**. This year's event is a virtual auction and stand-up comedy show featuring Pat Tomasulo. Proceeds from the Big Red House Party event support educational resources, school improvements and tuition assistance. From a variety of sponsorship levels to offering a cash or item donation, there are several ways you can support our efforts found on our website, www.bigredhouseparty.com.

This upcoming Community Event gives you a night off from cooking and benefits St. Ed's! **Tuesday, February 16th, all day**, Panda Express, 2949 W Addison, Chicago, 60618. Flyer needed and available at <https://www.stedwardchicago.org/community-days.html>. Thank you for your support!

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 or call the office at 773-736-9133 to learn more about our outstanding academic programs and extended care.

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.

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 (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