

A publication of the Mayfair Civic Association Neighbors making a difference since 1945 March 2016 Volume 19, Issue 4

### **Monthly meeting scheduled for March 10**

As spring approaches, the sound of hammering is beginning to ring throughout our neighborhoods. The next MCA meeting will be held **Thursday, March 10,** at 7:30 p.m. at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox. This general meeting will review the progress of various projects underway in the Mayfair community. The MCA invites you, your friends, and your neighbors to join us on Thursday. Please mark your calendars, jot down any thoughts and ideas you have, and bring your suggestions to share. How about a new park on the east side of Elston Ave., for example? Come to the meeting, and share your dream.



### **Civic Association Officers**

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### **Letter from the President**

Ron Duplack

Many thanks to all the Mayfair neighbors who volunteered to help coordinate the candidate forum on February 25, which was co-sponsored by the Mayfair Civic Association, the North Mayfair Improvement Association, and the Hollywood North Park Community Association. We also thank Brian Nadig, publisher of the Nadig Newspapers for serving as the moderator, as well as Palmer Elementary School Principal La Shawn Ray for providing the space in the school's auditorium.

We had a large turnout of attendees who came to hear the views of the candidates for Chicago's 39th ward committeeman and the Illinois 15th district congressional slot. The candidates addressed a wide range of topics in response to questions that had been solicited from the community by the forum co-sponsors prior to the event.

Please be sure to exercise your voting privileges on Election Day this March 15, in this important election year. We hope to see you at the MCA meeting on March 10.



### 2016 MCA Meetings

Membership meetings are generally held on the second Thursday of every other month at 7:30 p.m. at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave. (No meetings in January, July, or August). These are the rest of the dates scheduled for 2016, with proposed discussion topics

March 10
Zoning and development
April 14
Gardens and trees
May 12
Mayfair Park

June 9
To be announced
September 8

Traffic and Parking

October 13

MCA elections

November 10
Planning for annual party
December 8
Holiday Party

## **Update from the Alderman**

Margaret Laurino, 39th Ward

With the weather as variable as it has been this winter, some days it's easy to think that spring is already here. However, with the occasional bouts of inclement weather still with us, please be sure that snow and ice are removed from sidewalks promptly.

Individuals with disabilities, children, and seniors must be able to walk safely with a wide, clear path through snow and ice. The municipal code of Chicago states that

### **Early Voting Has Started**

Early voting for the March 15 primary election began on **Monday**, **February 29**, and will continue through **Saturday**, **March 12**.

Voters will be able to cast their ballots in either the Democratic or Republican primaries at the North Park Village Administration Building, located at 5801 N. Pulaski Rd. (signs will direct you to the building if you're not familiar with the area).

Hours for voting are 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Otherwise, you may vote in your precinct on Tuesday, March 15.

homeowners and occupants are responsible for the removal of ice and snow from sidewalks.

Also, please remember that the city's winter overnight parking restrictions also are in effect for most of the critical arterial streets until April 1. Whether or not there's snow on the ground, cars parked between 3:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. on critical arterial streets that have permanently posted signs will be

ticketed and towed. Keep in mind that these tickets are very costly, so be aware of parking restrictions

### Street sweeping starts April 1

Just when you think it's safe to park anywhere, please note that Chicago's street sweeping season will begin on April 1 and run through mid-November. If a street is scheduled for sweeping, a temporary "no parking" sign will be posted along the route the day before service to ensure curb-to-curb cleaning.

Some arterial streets may already have permanently posted signs that specify a once-per-week period when

parking is prohibited due to sweeping. Avoid parking during the period posted on the signs to avoid being ticketed.

#### **Avoid cabin fever**

The Chicago Park District has a variety of programs for adults, as well as children. Though in-person registration for the spring session began on Saturday, February 27,



at Mayfair Park, 4550 W. Sunnyside Ave., there are still a few slots open for interesting programs at the park. Drop in at the field house, visit www.chicagoparkdistrict.com, or call the park at (773) 685-3361 for further information.

And, plan ahead for summer programs. The park district will open online registration for summer 2016 programs on Monday, April 4; in-person walk-in registration begins on Saturday, April 9.

### Contact us via e-mail or phone, or visit us in person

To receive last-minute updates and news from the 39th ward, please register for my e-newsletter. You can sign up for it at www.AldermanLaurino.com (look at the upper right corner of the website), or e-mail ward39@cityofchicago.org. We'll add your e-mail to our list; your information will remain private and will never be shared.

Questions or concerns? E-mail us, stop in at my public service office at 4404 West Lawrence Avenue, or call us at (773) 736-5594. Our office hours are Monday from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

If you have unused eyeglasses or hearing aids, please consider donating these items to help someone in need. Your donation could help to enrich someone's life. There's a convenient drop-off box at the office.

### New Garbage Fees will be Added to Water Bills

As part of the 2016 budget, the city of Chicago passed an ordinance, effective January 1, 2016, that implements a \$9.50 garbage fee for residential properties that currently receive city-provided garbage service (buildings serviced by private waste collectors that pick up trash deposited in dumpsters are not affected by this ordinance).

The monthly fee will be charged to each dwelling unit. For example, a two-flat house will be charged \$19 per month or \$9.50 per unit, depending on how the water bill for the building is issued. The fee will be collected beginning April 1, 2016, and is retroactive (January, February, and March garbage fees will

appear on upcoming water bills). In 2016, there will be no late fees or penalties on the trash portion of the bill to allow residents to catch up on the fees for the first three months. Eligible seniors (those who receive a Cook County Senior Freeze Exemption) will receive a 50% discount on the garbage fee.

If you have a water meter, you'll continue receiving a water/ sewer bill every two months, and you'll begin to see the garbage fee on the same bill. If you have an unmetered water account, you'll continue to be billed every six months, and the garbage fees will be added to the water and sewer charges at that time. For more information, visit www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/ fin/supp\_info/garbage-fee-fag.html

## Irish American Heritage Center 4626 N. Knox Avenue

Kathy O'Neill

If it's March, then you know it's time for fun, festivities, and fellowship at the Irish American Heritage Center!

### Celtic art class begins March 15

The center's traditional Celtic art class is returning to the IAHC Art Gallery this March. Beginning and intermediate-level students will be able to study techniques for knot



work and interlacing, as well as color theory. Students can also complete a project of their own choosing while enjoying a supportive, creative atmosphere.

Classes will be held on Tuesday nights from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. from March 15 to May 17. Tuition is \$130 for members and \$150 for nonmembers. To register or for

more information, please contact the gallery's director Frank Crowley at (773) 612-6584.

### Celebrate all things Irish at the annual St. Patrick's Fest

On Saturday, March 12, please enjoy the downtown Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade. Then, come and join us at the IAHC for one of Chicago's biggest St. Patrick's Day celebrations. The festivities begin at 1:00 p.m., and a full schedule of entertainment and events only end at midnight.

This large-scale, family-oriented celebration features both traditional and contemporary Irish music played by Chicago musicians and by artists direct from Ireland. You'll also be entertained by amazing dance performances that highlight the talents of numerous young artists.

You'll also be able to enjoy food and drink, children's activities, and an arts and craft fair that includes vendors who will be selling Irish gifts.



The talented Trinity Irish Dancers make their intricate steps look effortless

While you're at the IAHC, take the opportunity to visit the library, museum, and art gallery to enjoy the programs and exhibits, including films, Irish language lessons, an Irish art exhibit, genealogy workshops, and a book sale.

The featured entertainers include the Irish Heritage Singers, the Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band, Trinity Irish Dancers, the O'Hare School of Irish Dance, Mulhern School of Irish Dance, Mullane Healy Godley Irish Dance Academy, and musicians Tim O'Shea and Philip Crickard, direct from Ireland.

Attendees can park near the IAHC building; but if you choose a remote lot, you'll be directed to the right location and be able to take a free shuttle to the IAHC from 2:00 p.m. to midnight.

Tickets are \$15 for adults (\$12 if bought by the end of the day on March 10). Children 12 and under are free. Tickets can be purchased by calling (773) 282-7035, ext. 10, visiting www.irish-american.org, or visiting the IAHC office.



This young gentleman has chosen to express his inner Irishman with a really eye-catching design. What creative ideas will your kids have for the artist doing the face painting?

### The fun continues on St. Patrick's Day!

You'll want to officially commemorate St. Patrick's Day on Thursday, March 17 at the IAHC with the annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration. The day-long celebration in the Fifth Province Pub will feature live music, dance, food and drink, and face painting for the children. Entertainment will include the Chancey Brothers and Without U2.

The party starts at noon and continues until 10:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults; children 12 and under are free. (You also may want to join us for mass at 11:00 a.m.) Tickets can be purchased by calling (773) 282-7035, ext. 10 or visiting the IAHC office.

## Run the Water a Bit Longer Before Drinking

If you grew up in Chicago, you probably remember your mom's advice to run the water until it got cold. If you're a newcomer, you might be reluctant to follow that advice, especially if you have a water meter. It does seem like such a waste to let all that water just go down the drain.



However, if you live on a block or street where the water mains have recently been replaced, you may want to run the water for a total of three to five minutes any time you haven't turned on the water for several hours (fill a bucket to use on your trees or in your garden). Because water-main work can damage the protective coating in the lead water-service lines that lead from the street to your house, your water may contain a lot more lead than you think.

According to a February 28, 2016, article in the Chicago Tribune,\* the city's water department hasn't done adequate testing for lead in areas where the water mains have been replaced, which includes a number of streets in the Mayfair area. The article also noted a lawsuit is pending in the Cook County Circuit Court that, if successful, would force the city to replace all of the city's lead water-service lines. (Chicago's plumbing code required lead lines until 1986.)

Meanwhile, the Environmental Protection Agency also recommends that homes with lead water-service lines—which includes most of the older homes in Chicago—buy and install water filters that are certified by NSF International to remove "total lead." For more information, you can visit www.epa.gov/safewater/lead or call the Safe Water Drinking Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

\*Article may be found at www.chicagotribune/leadmap

### **Community First Medical Center Programs**

The Community First Medical Center, 5645 W. Addison St., will offer the following no-cost health events in March. To register for an event, please call (844) 236-2362.

### Thinking about joint replacement?

You can obtain free information at a session on Thursday, March 10, or Thursday, March 24 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The free sessions will be conducted by Carleen Nunez, R.N., along with rehabilitation services staffers. You'll receive educational materials, get questions answered, and learn what to expect from surgery.

### Free blood-pressure screening

Free blood pressure screenings will be offered on Monday, March 14, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. in the hospital's main lobby. Registration is not required, and a healthcare professional will be available to answer any questions.

#### Set aside March 24 to be tested for diabetes

Thursday, March 24, is American Diabetes Alert Day. You can be screened for diabetes between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. No fasting or other preparation is needed. A \$10 fee, payable in cash or check, is required, and advance registration is necessary. Please call (844) 236-2362.

The arthritis support group meets Thursday, March 24, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Free; registration is not required.



### **Around the Neighborhood**

### **Veterans Band Together to Support Fellow Vets**

The VetHub, located at 5031 W. Montrose Ave., is a new resource for Chicago's military veterans. The VetHub is a project of the Chicago Veterans aimed at helping veterans transition back to civilian life, as well as providing ongoing support services. Although meetings are limited to members of the Chicago Veterans, all veterans who have been honorably discharged from the service can join at no cost by visiting www. chicagovets.org/join; please share the news with any veterans you may know.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 9, at 6:30 p.m. Please visit Chicago Vets.org for more information.



# Chamber Music Series North Park Village Nature Center

orth Park Village Nature Cente 5801 N. Pulaski Rd. Performances last one hour.

**String Quartet** 

Saturday, March 12, 11:00 a.m.

**String Quintet** 

Saturday, April 9, 11:00 a.m.

**Brass Quintet** 

Saturday, May 14, 11:00 a.m.

### **Palm Sunday at Irish American Heritage Center**

Please join friends and neighbors for the annual Palm Sunday Mass and Irish breakfast on Sunday, March 20,

at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave.

Begin with Mass at 10:30 a.m. Mass will be followed by a full Irish breakfast, served in the Fifth Province Pub. Families will enjoy games and crafts, and can dye Easter eggs to take home.

Tickets for the breakfast are \$15 for adults and \$8 for children. Make reservations by March 15; call (773) 282-7035, ext. 10.

### **Maple Syrup Festival at North Park Village**

You don't have to go all the way to Vermont to taste authentic maple syrup. You just need to visit the North Park Village Nature Center, at 5801 N. Pulaski Rd. on March 19 and 20, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. See the entire maple syrup-making process, from tapping the tree and collecting the sap, to boiling it down into syrup. Take a walk through the sugar bush, enjoy storytelling, listen to music, make a maple craft, warm yourself by the fire, and taste real maple syrup fresh off the fire. The free festival is a sweet, warm tradition that's fun for all ages.



## Mayfair Park Advisory Council's

# EASTER EGG HUN

Come out to Mayfair Park to visit with the bunny and hunt for eggs! Light concessions will be for sale.

## Saturday, March 19

10:15 a.m.—10:30 a.m. for ages 2—3 10:45 a.m.—11:00 a.m. for ages 4—6 11:15 a.m.—11:45 a.m. for ages 7—10

\$3 admission per child

Register online at may fairpac.org



### **In Memoriam**



### A sad farewell to "the Mayor of Knox Street"

The Mayfair Civic Association would like to extend its sincere sympathy to the family of Jim Kelly, who passed away early this February. Jim and his wife Harriet always were active participants in MCA activities (you probably bought your holiday party raffle tickets from them over the years), as well as the Irish American Heritage Center and the Sokol Community Center. Jim was also a fixture at the 9:30 a.m. mass at St. Edward church, where he served as an usher for many years.

A veteran of the Korean War, Jim was proud to note that he never had, nor wanted, a driver's license, preferring to walk and use the area's convenient public transportation options. The Mayfair community has lost a good neighbor, who contributed his energy and good humor toward keeping our neighborhood a friendly, vibrant, and attractive place to live.

### Mayfair meetings will be a little less lively

Our sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Tom Nelson, who passed away in late January from complications of heart surgery. Tom was a longtime member and supporter of the Mayfair Civic Association. But more important, he was a great guy and a great dad. Tom's presence at the annual holiday party, with his wife Laurie and their children, helped to kick off the festivities. Yet, at the end, he always stayed to make sure everything was in order.

Of course, many of us will never forget the first impression that Tom made when we met him. His creative ways with whiskers—and his sometimes scary attire (that policeman's jacket!)—alerted folks to his sense of humor, whether they met him at an MCA meeting, or just bumped into him on Keokuk Avenue. But his warmth and willingness to volunteer his help on many occasions has left a lasting impression. Tom was one of the good ones; he will be missed.



### Office of Emergency Management and Communications Clarifies when to Call 911 or 311

At a recent CAPS meeting, Chicago's Office of Emergency Management and Communications provided a handout to advise residents about which number is the correct one to call when services are required. Here's a quick summary:

Call 911 when a situation requires immediate police, fire, or emergency medical response.

### For police services

- When there is a crime in progress or one has just occurred
- When there is an immediate threat to life or threat of bodily injury
- When there is major property damage or loss due to crime

### For fire services

- To report a fire
- To report hazardous-material incidents
- To initiate the rescue of a trapped person

### For emergency medical services

- To report life-threatening medical emergencies that require an ambulance, including:
  - Heart attack or stroke
  - Asthma attack
  - Automobile accident with injuries

Call 311 to request city services, and to report situations that don't require a police response.

### For city services

- To report problems, to request services, or to check the status of a requested service, including:
  - Garbage collection (call the alderman's office for garbage cans)
  - Potholes or graffiti
  - Street or alley lights
- To get information about special events or neighborhood festivals
- To find out the date and location of the next CAPS beat meeting

### For police non-emergency services

- To report a situation that doesn't pose an immediate threat to life, bodily injury, or major property damage or loss
- To file a police report
- To report a situation that doesn't require an immediate police response, including:
  - Pick-pocketing
  - Auto theft
  - Other offenses when the suspect is no longer at the scene

### **Arts in the Mayfair Area**

Marlena Ascher

Chicago's theater district is a well-known tourist attraction, but there are plenty of great entertainment venues right around our own area. Enjoy—before they get "discovered."

### "In a Little World of Their Own"; Irish Theater of Chicago

Set against violent tremors in the North, three brothers are thrust into a tense whodunit—and one must pay for a heinous crime. Gary Mitchell, Northern Ireland's preeminent playwright wrote this wry, moral, psychological thriller.

The Den Theatre, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave. will host the play through April 10. Performances take place on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25; senior, student, and group discounts are available. Please call (866) 811-4111 or buy tickets online at http://irishtheatreofchicago.org/

#### **Brandon Ridenour and Rachel Naomi Kudo at NEIU**

As part of the Brass Festival at Northeastern Illinois University, award-winning trumpeter, pianist, and composer/arranger Brandon Ridenour will perform on trumpet Friday, March 11 at 7:30 p.m. While playing his own virtuoso arrangements, he'll be accompanied by pianist Rachel Naomi Kudo.



## **Mayfair Commons Senior Apartments**

4444 W. Lawrence Ave., at Elston Ave.

Apply today, seniors 62 and older

Apply online at: www.mayfaircommons.com Call office at: (773) 205-7862

Affordable, spacious studio, 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom units



Serving the Mayfair communities since 1998

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They'll perform at NEIU's Recital Hall, 5500 N. St. Louis. Tickets are \$25; seniors (64+) pay \$17.50. Please call (773) 442-4636 or buy online at www.neiu.edu/universitylife/arts-northeastern/jewel-box-series/brandon-ridenour/.

### "Bindis and Bruises" at the Ebenezer Lutheran Church

The Chicago Danz Theater illuminates the individual stories of five women who have suffered dating, sexual, and domestic abuse present in Indian-American culture. A multiracial cast of 10 women employs dancing and acting to weave together the stories.

Performances will take place at the Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W. Foster Ave., on Friday, March 18 and Saturday, March 19, at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door; students can attend for \$10 (free for middle schoolers) with a valid ID. Call (773) 486-8261 or e-mail info@danztheatre.org for more information.

### A Salute to Christopher Guest at The Den Theater

You may remember Christopher Guest's virtuoso performance in the movie "This is Spinal Tap." Or perhaps you laughed your way through "Best in Show" or "A Mighty Wind." Guest wrote,

directed, and starred in these often satirical "mockumentaries."

The New American Folk Theater's salute will feature some of Chicago's finest performers as they lovingly recreate, pay homage to, and reinvent Guest's music.



The Den Theater, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave. will host these performers on Tuesday, March 22, at 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices are not fixed; pay what you can. Proceeds will support upcoming productions. NAFT is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to folk theatre, music, education, and stories that shine new light on the American tale.

### "Dreams of the Penny Gods" at the Halcyon Theater

Bug is just your average 13-year-old girl who happens to have been born into a criminal family hiding out in a storage facility. So, naturally, she's transformed herself into a high priestess trying to raise the dead. On this particular summer day—her incantations seem to work. Ooops...

Learn what happens at the Halcyon Theater at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, 3255 W. Wilson Ave., from March 24 to May 1. On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, performances start at 8:00 p.m., Sunday at 6:00 p.m. Guaranteed admission is \$20; purchase online at https:// halcyontheatre.tixato.com/buy. Or try at the box office for a first-come, first-served seat one hour before the performance. For more information, visit https:// halcyontheatre.org/pennygods or call (773) 413-0454.



### 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.messenger@yahoo.com. Thanks for helping us stretch your membership dues!

### **Mayfair Bump-out Garden Sponsors**

**Dispatch Taxi Affiliation** 4536 N. Elston Ave.

Garcia Mufflers Corporation 4529 W. Lawrence Ave.

Brian Grienenberger (Mayfair's Resident Realtor) www.bjgproperties.com

Hala In Restaurant 4624 W. Lawrence Ave.

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**Yemen Restaurant** 4750 N. Kenneth Ave.

39th Ward Alderman
Margaret Laurino and
Illinois 15th District State Rep
John D'Amico
4404 W. Lawrence Ave.



### **Elston Avenue**

**B and G Truck and Auto Repair** 4550 N. Elston Ave.

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Schuham Builder's Supply Co. 4640 N. Elston Ave.

**The Fish Guy** 4423 N. Elston Ave.

X Sport Fitness 4677 N. Elston Ave.

### 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.messenger@yahoo.com (the editor reserves the right to edit submissions for space and content; items may not appear if they're past the publishing date).

lf y	ou're already	y a me	mber, p	lease	pass	this o	n 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 Margie Scannell 4731 N. Kilbourn Ave. Chicago, IL 60630