



Mayfair Messenger

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

September 2019
Volume 22, Issue 4

Monthly meeting on September 12 – Triangle Park, Neighborhood Checklist

Our next meeting will to be at **7:30pm** on September 12 at the Irish American Heritage Center, **4626 N Knox**. We will discuss Triangle Park event planning and progress made on neighborhood checklist items with the assistance of our new Alderman. Please be sure to come.



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

- Zoning/Development:** Christopher Lambesis,
chris@lambesis.net
Membership: Darlene McDermott,
darlene_mcdermott@hotmail.com
Beautification: Tom Keating,
keatingj@gmail.com

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Letter from the President

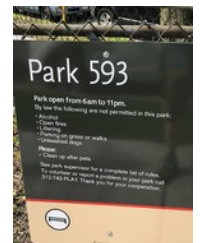
Ron Duplack

The kids have all gone back to school and we are back with our monthly Membership Meetings. Hope everyone had a great summer.

New Park Ribbon Cutting



We have scheduled an afternoon event on **Saturday, September 28**, to celebrate our new Kedvale Park and to recognize and thank everyone that provided support in capturing the property for community use. Alderman Laurino, Alderman Nugent and representatives from the Chicago Park District and OpenLands are expected to be on hand. The event will be held between **12:00 and 2:00** and will include a ribbon cutting. We encourage everyone to bring a potluck item so we may visit over an informal picnic in the new Park (presently officially labeled “Park 593”).



2019 MCA Meetings

Membership meetings are generally held on the second Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave. No meetings are held in January, July, or August. These are the rest of the dates scheduled for 2019, with proposed discussion topics.

September 12
Traffic & Parking
October 10
Elections

November 14
Annual Party Planning
December 12
Holiday Party

Our Board generally meets during the intervening months.

Neighborhood Checklist

Thomas Keating

This section is a selection of items from the MCA's checklist of things we'd like to see addressed around the neighborhood. If there is a blue check near an item, it means that the item has been discussed with the Alderman, or some other follow-up has been done within the past year. If the item has a green check, it means the item is considered to have been sufficiently-addressed (and will not recur in subsequent issues). We'll rotate through the list, including a few in future issues.

If there are items you'd like to be included in the list, contact Tom Keating, MCA VP, to discuss at keatingtj@gmail.com.

Potholes

Many streets in Mayfair are in very poor condition, and need pot holes repaired, or resurfaced. There was significant progress made during the latter half of last summer with requests to the Alderman's office, and calls to 311.



Chicago Pothole Tracker: <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/cdot/dataset/potholetracker.html>

Missing Street Signs

The one-way sign at the southwest corner of Lawrence and Kildare has been knocked down again and needs to be replaced. This happened last year at this location and the sign was stolen before it was replaced, so this needs immediate attention. Last year, we asked the Alderman's Office to add a one-way sign at Keeler and Lawrence near the War Memorial. This is because the two signs that face Lawrence say "Do Not Enter," but people do not see this

until they have started to turn onto Keeler, and often go down the one-way street the wrong way.

Repairs needed on garden fencing, and cement around bump-out gardens on Lawrence

The alderman's office was able to get most of the metal fences repaired except the two at the southeast and southwest corners of Lowell and Lawrence repaired. We hope these can be done as well because Ken at Tohle's Funeral has maintained a very special English style garden at the southeast corner for many years. We hope the Alderman can also get the broken concrete repaired where the fences are connected to the concrete. The bump-out gardens were put along Lawrence Ave. years ago with several ideas in mind: they would discourage trucks from going down residential streets; they would make Lawrence Ave. attractive; and encourage businesses to settle in the area. Businesses were encouraged to sponsor the gardens in order to help maintain them. It has been a challenge from the beginning to find volunteers to help with the maintenance. The situation is at a point where we need the city to hire a landscaping company to handle the maintenance.



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

Beautification

Gabby Lambesis

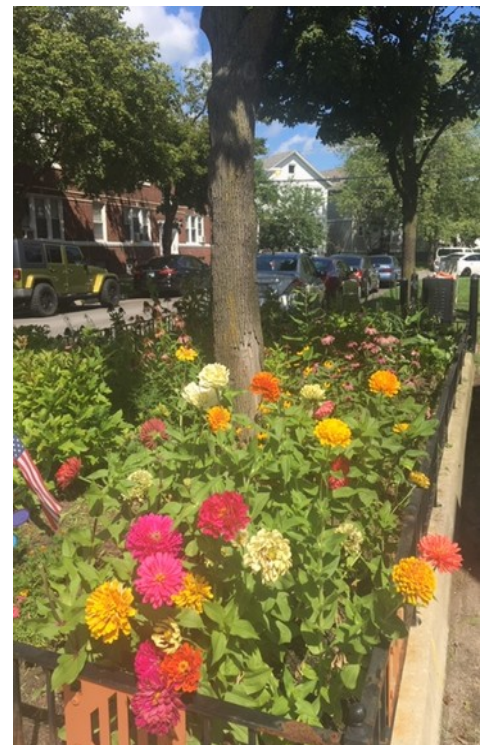
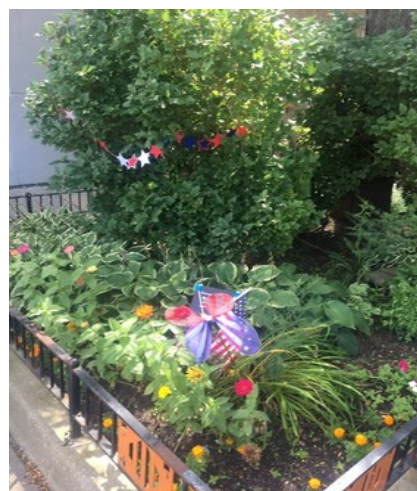
Lawrence Avenue Community Garden Bump Outs

We are still enjoying the long days of summer, and the frequent summer rainfall has certainly helped to make our gardens bloom abundantly.

Thanks to the Mayfair Beautification Committee's garden volunteers, the bump out gardens along Lawrence Avenue look amazing. Our volunteers' contribution and time in maintaining these garden bump outs is always greatly appreciated. Our gratitude goes out to Gavin and Margie Chase, Lillie Ashbury and KarenLynn Augustyn, Kathy Payne, Tom Keating, Darlene McDermott, Pam and Ray Sanders, Wally and Bea Eliassen, Kristin Mazanowski, and St. Edward Cub Scout Pack 3904.

We would also like to thank the following businesses that sponsored the garden bump outs: [Laborers International Union – Local #6](#), [Clark Street Sports](#), [Garcia Muffler](#), [Brian Grienenberger](#), [Hala In Restaurant](#), [Halogen Supply Company, Inc.](#), [Yemen Restaurant](#), [We Wash Car Care Center](#), [Alderman Samantha Nugent](#), [State Representative John D'Amico 15th District](#), [Easy Breezy Laundry & Dry Cleaner](#), and [Dispatch Taxi Affiliation](#). Thank you for your continued support!

For more information on garden sponsorship and volunteering please contact Gabby Lambesis at gabsterlamb@gmail.com or call 773-593-3093.



Business Buzz

Jean-Marie Minton

Welcome to the “Business Buzz”, where we highlight businesses located in and around our Mayfair neighborhood. In every issue we’ll profile one or two businesses that support the neighborhood, and that we hope you will support in turn. If you have a favorite business that you think we should learn more about, please let us know.

To refresh your memory, or if you didn’t already know, the Mayfair neighborhood is bounded on the east and west by Pulaski and Cicero Avenues and on the north and south by Montrose and Lawrence Avenues.

Triangle Park Contributors

In the past two issues of the newsletter, we’ve been highlighting the local businesses that contributed to our efforts to secure the lot for Triangle Park, the newest green space in Mayfair. We’ll conclude with a few more neighborhood establishments in this issue.

Located where Kasson and Wilson Avenue intersect, the city plot for Triangle Park probably would have been developed for housing if it hadn’t been for lots of people working to keep it a green space. Of course a project like this takes money, and local businesses were asked to donate funds, and the following businesses were kind enough to do so.

Rany Management

RANY

1950 W Montrose Ave

<https://www.ranymanagement.com/>

Star North Management, LLC

4536 N Elston Ave

Old Irving Brewing

OLD IRVING
★★ BREWING CO. ★★

4419 W Montrose Ave

<https://www.ouldirvingbrewing.com/>

Le Moment Salon



4218 W Lawrence Ave

<https://>

[www.facebook.com/Le-](https://www.facebook.com/Le-Moment-Salon-1830393440545971/)

[Moment-Salon-](https://www.facebook.com/Le-Moment-Salon-1830393440545971/)

[1830393440545971/](https://www.facebook.com/Le-Moment-Salon-1830393440545971/)

VR One Enterprises

4233 W Lawrence Ave

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/VRoneenterprisesinc)

[VRoneenterprisesinc](https://www.facebook.com/VRoneenterprisesinc)



We Wash Care Care Center, Inc.



WeWash
HAND CAR WASH & DETAIL CENTER

4660 W Lawrence Ave

<https://wewashdetailcenter.com/>

Thanks so much to these businesses for their investment in our community!

Around the Neighborhood

Area Forest Playschool Closed, For Now

By Ryan Kinderman, Editor

The Forest Playschool, an all-outdoors preschool, that has been operating in the wooded area of the North Park Village Nature Center has, sadly, had to close – for now. The innovative school, and the controversy surrounding it, was mentioned in the [February issue](#) of this newsletter. My son attended the school last year, and was enrolled for this year as well, so this closing affects my family personally.

In 2017, my wife and I were looking for something to involve our then-three-year-old son in the following year that would get him prepared for kindergarten. We heard about the Forest Playschool from a neighbor, who was interested in the school herself, and is also a teacher at a highly-regarded grade school in the city. We enrolled our son for the 2018 session, three days a week.

At the start of the school session, my son had just recently turned four, and was still quite physically unsure of himself and very cautious when climbing, balancing, etc., not being particularly naturally outgoing in that way. The instructors at the school encouraged the children to explore nature and the woods, and to find ways to have fun in all manner of weather (from hot and sunny to freezing rain), without any toys, games, or other distractions that weren't already surrounding (or within) them.

By the end of the session, a transformation was evident. Our son was fearlessly-but-carefully climbing large tree structures in the woods. He has developed a keen interest in, and curiosity about, things he finds in nature. To this day, he's always picking up cicada husks, nut shells, and interesting-looking sticks. He knows not to eat mushrooms he sees growing on the ground. He's not bothered by "bad" weather. In nature, he grows quiet and preoccupied with his surroundings. We are so grateful for the experience he was able to have with the school.

Unfortunately, "the Forest Playschool was perhaps a tiny bit ahead of its time", said Teresa Weed, the school's founder and executive director. "The model proved not only successful, but practical, cost-effective, enlivening, and fun." However, the school was still in an experimental

stage, and no one knew how successful it would be on the outset; as a result, the neighborhood and the Park District Administration were caught off-guard as it grew, and it became clear that organizational oversight would be needed. Neither CPD nor DCFS were able to offer the necessary oversight because of licensing issues and, given the unprecedented nature of the program, a lack of legal support for outdoor schools in general.

As a result of the success of the school, and resounding support from the parents who involved their children in it throughout its five years of operation, work is now underway to change the laws to support outdoor schools. The school community, along with educators and other advocates, have formed a group called Forest Schools for Illinois. The purpose of this group is to get a bill passed to establish a pilot project to license outdoor early learning and childcare programs in Illinois, as Washington State has done.

"Laws don't change preemptively, they change when there's a good reason for them to change," says Ms. Weed. "Outdoor preschools offer the perfect solution to many health problems specific to modern kids, like anxiety, depression, obesity, screen addiction, and poor executive functioning skills. The time for forest schools to be widely available to all children has come."

To get involved, please reach out to Teresa Weed at forestplayschool@gmail.com.

For more information on the Forest Playschool, check out their web site at

<https://www.forestplayschoolchicago.com/>. For more information on the school closing:

- <https://chicago.cbslocal.com/2019/06/26/forest-playschool-walking-stick-woods-chicago-park-district-permit-dcfs-license/>
- <https://blockclubchicago.org/2019/06/20/preschool-program-kicked-out-of-the-woods-by-north-park-neighbors/>

Disclaimer: Any opinions expressed in this article are those of the author; they do not reflect the opinions or views of the Mayfair Civic Association, its members, or its affiliates.

17th District CAPS Office

Community Conversation - Policing Strategy Planning

You are invited to participate in the creation of the Community Policing Strategy Plan.

Every year, the 17th District will be hosting a 2-part "Community Conversation" event that focuses on the upcoming year's (2020) Crime Reduction/Strategic Plan development. The event will be held on **October 10** from **6-8pm** at the Irish American Heritage Center at **4626 N Knox Ave.** Light refreshments will be served. They will have about 5-7 tables set up for mini conversations with officers to



gather input and ideas from community members on what you believe are the crime-related issues in our district. This is a collaborative effort to gather information that will be incorporated into the district's plan.

CAPS Meetings (Beat 1722)

CAPS meetings for Beat 1722 are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for **September 18**, **October 16**, and **November 20**. Meetings are held at the 17th District Police Station Community Room located on **4650 N Pulaski Road** at **7:00pm**.

Dates are subject to change, so please contact the CAPS office to confirm a date at 312-742-4588, or email caps.017district@chicagopolice.org.

Join us in making a difference. Your input and ideas are needed!

For more information, please contact the 17th District Community Policing Office at 312-742-4588, or email at caps.017district@chicagopolice.org.

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

If you would like to be notified when new issues of this newsletter are published, request to join our email list at <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/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 on 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