



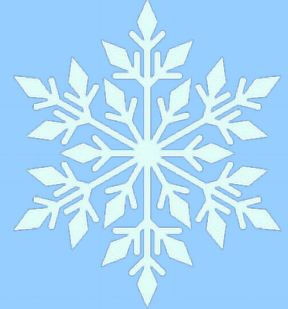
Mayfair Messenger

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

November 2019
Volume 22, Issue 5

Monthly meeting on November 14

Our next meeting will to be at **7:30pm** on November 14 at the Irish American Heritage Center, **4626 N Knox**. Please plan on attending to receive any updates on Triangle Park , the new proposed affordable housing across from the police station, and other important community topics. We'll also be planning our Annual Holiday Party, which will occur at **7:00pm** on **December 12**, at the IAHC.



Civic Association Officers

- President:** Ron Duplack,
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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

At our last meeting we reviewed the two preliminary Triangle Park improvement plans presented by the Park District at the September 28 ribbon cutting ceremony attended by Alderman Laurino, Alderman Nugent, and representatives from the Chicago Park District and OpenLands. Please see the related Newsletter article for details and next steps.

We also heard from developers of a proposed affordable senior housing project for the empty parking lot located at 4655 N Pulaski, across the street from the 17th District Police Station. Current plans envision a five-story building with 88-units and 30 parking spaces. Ground floor spaces would include community rooms, public spaces and retail oriented toward resident needs, such as medical, treatment or pharmaceutical convenience shopping. Monthly rents would be tied to local median income levels and would range from approximately \$750 to \$1,060. Overall project investment would be approximately \$25.6 million.



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.

November 14
Annual Party Planning

December 12
Holiday Party

Our Board generally meets during the intervening months.

Letter from the President

Ron Duplack



Concerns were expressed regarding the height of the building, traffic congestion, and parking concerns. The developers suggested that community members visit their other facility at 4820 N Kedzie to get an idea of what this proposed project may look like and how comparable parking arrangements have satisfactorily served that location without substantial congestion or parking issues. They said recommendations expressed at our meeting would be considered, and they would look into potential creation of additional parking spaces through modifications to existing plans, as they begin their permitting phase. We will attempt to keep you advised. For more building renderings, site plans, etc., you can download a PDF of the development overview at http://www.mayfaircivic.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Pulaski-Leland-Presentation_7.22.19.pdf.

Finally, please note that Alderman Nugent expects to soon vacate her present office space so it may be used to expand the Mayfair Branch Library. Her new offices will be built out just a block or two east on Lawrence Avenue.

Beautification

Gabby Lambesis

Elston Avenue Community Planters

On our last MCA newsletter we featured the garden bumpouts along Lawrence Avenue. This month we would like to highlight and give homage to our garden planters that are all located along Elston Avenue between Lawrence and Montrose Avenues. They all bring head-turning charm when driving down Elston.

Thanks to the Mayfair Beautification Committee's garden volunteers, the community planters looks fabulous. Our real gratitude goes out to Tom Keating and his awesome crew for their Herculean efforts in helping make our neighborhood gorgeous.

We would also like to thank the following businesses that sponsored the planters: B & G Auto Therapists, Easy Breezy, The Fish Guy Market, Gerber Collision & Glass, Imperial Lighting Maintenance Company, Laborers International Union – Local #6, Schuham Builders Supply, Inc. and Star North Management LLC. Thank you for your continued support!

Next Spring, we will be sure to feature photos of these lovely planters.

Happy Holidays from the MCA!

You and your family and friends are invited to the Mayfair Civic Association's annual Holiday Party on **Thursday, December 12 at 7:00pm** at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N Knox Ave.

Invite the neighbors, and come to share food, fun, and festivities! Please join us for this neighborhood tradition. See you there!



If you'd like to help plan and prep for the party, we'll be kicking that off at the MCA meeting on **November 14 at 7:30pm** at the IAHC, 4626 N Knox. Bring your ideas and holiday spirit!

Triangle Park Updates

The ribbon cutting for the new Park 593 (aka “Triangle Park”), on the corner of Kedvale and Wilson, took place as-scheduled on Saturday, September 28. It was a rainy afternoon but, nevertheless, there were a number of attendees from the neighborhood, including Alderman Nugent, Alderman Laurino, John D’Amico, State Representative for the 15th District, as well as representatives from the Chicago Park District and OpenLands.



On-display at the ribbon cutting were large boards showing the schematics of two design options being proposed by the Chicago Parks District, along with accompanying feature ideas for the park. Attendees at the park discussed the ideas presented until we moved things over to Marie’s Pizza (4129 W Lawrence) to escape from the rain, have some pizza, and discuss the park further.

Attendees of the ribbon cutting, as well as of the MCA meeting on October 10, discussed pros and cons of the two design options, as well as ideas for what features to include, and how those features should be implemented. Other concerns and desires for the park were also discussed.

The two design options proposed by CPD are named “interlocking” and “nested”. The “interlocking” design option is very interesting, but the prevailing opinion of attendees at both events seemed to be that the “nested” option seems more functional, because it includes a long stretch of open green space along one side of the park that might work best for games of catch, movies in the park, or other activities that require a long stretch of unobstructed space.

Some of the other thoughts raised by attendees during the events include:

- Seating and benches would ideally be shaded.
- A covered pavilion is one of the feature proposals from CPD and, while many people liked this idea, concerns were raised by some about such a thing encouraging loitering.
- There should be sufficient lighting to cover all areas of the park at night and deter illicit activities after-hours.
- Traffic in the area is largely residential, or people cutting through between Elston and Pulaski. In both cases, there is a level of familiarity and impatience on the part of drivers that creates a hazardous situation for people crossing the roads in the area. As such, something will likely need to be done eventually to cause vehicles to slow down when driving through the area.

Others in attendance thought that there will naturally be challenges, loitering under a pavilion or traffic problems, that come along with having a park in the neighborhood, but suggested that we address them as they come, and target the specific issues that come up once the park is in use. Over time, as we confront issues, these attendees suggested, we can work together to address them.

When you want to propose ideas for the park, or raise concerns about it (or anything else in the neighborhood), MCA meetings are a great place to start! Members in attendance may share their thoughts and ideas on your issue, make suggestions on how to address it, or provide support in doing so.

If you would like to get more involved with Park 593, contact the Mayfair Park Advisory Council at mayfairpac@gmail.com.

You can download a PDF of the contents of the boards that were on-display at <http://www.mayfaircivic.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/triangle-park-cpd-layout-options.pdf>.

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.

No crosswalks on Lawrence between Elston and Cicero

This creates a very dangerous situation for pedestrians trying to cross Lawrence for a four block area. Our previous Alderman had said that a plan was prepared to provide crosswalks; however, no action has been taken as of this time.

Garden area at Elston and Lawrence needs updates

The garden area at Elston and Lawrence needs benches repaired, and more lighting needs to be provided in the area. The previous Alderman put us in contact with the owners of the property last year, and Mayfair Civic Association helped pay for the replacement of the garden boxes.



Vehicles blocking Kennicott sidewalk in front of Imperial Lighting Maintenance Company

People living near the Imperial Lighting Maintenance Company at 4555 N Elston Ave at Elston and Kennicott have complained that vehicles parked next to the building on Kennicott often block the sidewalk. The Alderman's office once



said that cement stops would be placed to prevent vehicles from going onto the sidewalk (similar to what was done next to Marie's Pizza). No action has been taken for years.

CAPS Meetings (Beat 1722)

CAPS meetings for Beat 1722 are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for **November 20** and **December 18**. 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. Learn about the CAPS program at <https://home.chicagopolice.org/office-of-community-policing/how-caps-works>.

Updates from the Alderman

Samantha Nugent, 39th Ward

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

Spotlight on Wally Eliassen



Alderman Nugent's newsletter from November 7 (<http://tiny.cc/ztzzfz>) had a "Meet Your Neighbor Spotlight" on Wally Eliassen! From the newsletter:

"Wally Eliassen is a Mayfair resident. You might recognize Wally because he is constantly going above and beyond in beautifying our community. We are in awe of Wally's dedication to a clean and peaceful neighborhood. THANK YOU, WALLY! You make us proud."

Wally is also a regular at Mayfair Civic Association meetings and events, and is a contributor to the MCA newsletter. The MCA President, Ron Duplack, said "He is an outstanding Mayfair patron and resident who can't be thanked enough for his tireless contributions to improve our neighborhood." Some of the things that Wally does around the neighborhood include:

- Maintaining the garden and grounds at the CTA Blue Line stop near 4508 W Montrose, clearing debris and mowing the lawn, among other things
- Volunteering to help with MCA gardening plot maintenance across the neighborhood
- Cleaning up trash and organizing seasonal cleanup events
- Serving as a community representative to local businesses
- Working with local businesses to raise funds for neighborhood improvement projects, including Triangle Park and Mayfair Park
- Regularly attending meetings and events for the MCA

Wally would also love some help with all he does! If you'd like to get involved and help check some items off of his list, please contact him at 773-282-8056, or by e-mail at wallyeliasen@gmail.com.

New Ward Office

The 39th Ward office has moved, from 4404 W Lawrence Ave to **4200 W Lawrence Ave**, to make room for the Mayfair Public Library to expand.

Participatory Budgeting

Participatory budgeting (PB) is happening in the 39th ward! PB is a democratic process where community members directly decide how to spend part of a public budget (menu

money). For more information, and to participate in the process, call 773-736-5594, or email ward39@cityofchicago.org.

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. You can also visit her office at 4200 W Lawrence Ave Mondays from 9am-8pm and Tuesday-Friday from 9am-5pm.

Irish American Heritage Center 4626 N Knox Avenue

Here are some upcoming event selections from the website, <https://irish-american.org>.

Heritage Rock Fest

Tear the roof off of the Irish American Heritage Center with a night of rock, metal, blues and southern rock from some of Chicago's best cover bands, with music by TNT-Chicago (AC/DC tribute), Pipe (Metal/Punk), Vicious

Circle (high energy rock and roll), and Midnight Road (hard rock and heavy blues).

Heritage Rock Fest is **Saturday, November 16 at 7pm** in the IAHC's 658 seat Mayfair Theatre. Tickets are **\$10**. The pub opens at 5pm and doors to the theatre open at 6pm. Age 17 and over.

Purchase tickets from the IAHC website.

Dancing with the Moon: Songs of the Irish Heart, from Yeats to U2



The Irish Heritage Singers, the IAHC's resident choir present "Dancing with the Moon: Songs of the Irish Heart, From Yeats to U2". The concert explores music ranging

from choral settings of William Butler Yeats poems, to U2 songs, along with traditional and seasonal Irish favorites.

The concert is **Sunday, November 24, 2019 at 3pm** in the Erin Room.

Tickets are **\$20** for adults, **\$5** for children ages 5-12, and children under 5 are free.

Purchase tickets from the IAHC website, call 773-282-7035 ext. 10, or purchase at the door.

Michael Londra's Celtic Yuletide

Celebrated Irish tenor Michael Londra presents a concert celebrating "Christmas from Ireland".

Emmy® nominated Michael Londra, best known as the voice of Riverdance on Broadway, presents a concert celebrating Christmas from Ireland told in songs, dance and stories of his youth. The evening features traditional Irish carols, Gaelic versions of classic carols, Londra's original Christmas songs featured on recordings with tenors, Luciano Pavarotti and Andrea Bocelli and incredible dancing. Irish musicians join Londra on stage including Mellad Abeid on guitar, David Schulz on pipes and whistles, Jamie Reynolds on keyboard and Catherine Cowell on fiddle. Champion dancer Joe Duffey compliments the group. Join us to celebrate Christmas from Ireland at the IAHC.

Michael Londra's Celtic Yuletide is **Friday, November 29 at 8pm**. Tickets are **\$30** and can be purchased on the IAHC website or by calling 773-282-7035, ext. 10.



St Edward School & Parish 4343 W Sunnyside Avenue

Jenny Dreyer

Congratulations to St. Edward School & Parish's newly installed pastor, Fr. Dominic Clemente. The Most Reverend Mark Bartosic, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, was present to install Fr. Dominic as our new leader on Saturday, September 7. Thanks to all who attended the wonderful parish celebration of this special occasion.



This year, St. Edward School implemented the i-Ready diagnostics testing for grades K-8. i-Ready integrates powerful assessments and rich insights with effective, engaging instruction in reading and mathematics to address students' individual needs. This empowers teachers every day to make more informed instructional decisions and motivates students to progress in their development.

These upcoming Community Events give you a night off from cooking, and benefits St. Ed's!

Wednesday, Nov. 13th, Hearth and Crust, 3608 W Irving Park Rd., Chicago, IL 60618; No flyer needed but must mention St. Eds.

Tuesday, December 3rd, 4pm to 8pm, Panera Bread, 5508 W Touhy Avenue; flyer needed (available online).

Thank you for your support!

Speaking of good food, the annual **St. Ed's Boy Scout Troop 904 annual spaghetti dinner** is **Saturday, November 23 from 5pm to 8:30pm** in Buckley Hall (gym) of the St. Edward School campus. The cost is \$10/adult and \$8/child for all you can eat pasta with

homemade meat sauce, salad bar and dessert. There will be a cash bar and entertainment by The Cowboy Choir. Come support the boy scouts!

Mark your calendars for **Casino Night on Saturday, November 16!** This new event will have fun games and raffles along with food and a cash bar. Starts **6:30pm** till 11:30pm, Unity Hall (basement of church). Tickets: \$25 in advance / \$30 at the door.

Please consider St. Edward School. Join us for **Welcome Wednesday, December 4**, with registration beginning at **8:30am** in the main school building, 4343 W Sunnyside. Meet our principal, teachers and students! Sign-up at www.stedwardschool.com. Discover all that St. Edward School has to offer.

St. Edward School is a 2017 recipient of the National Blue Ribbon.

This year St. Edward School & Parish celebrates 110 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 us at 773-736-9133. Our campus is located at 4343 W Sunnyside Avenue, easily accessible with close proximity to the Kennedy and Edens expressways, walking distance from the Blue Line, Metra station and the Montrose and Cicero Avenue bus lines.

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