



Mayfair Messenger

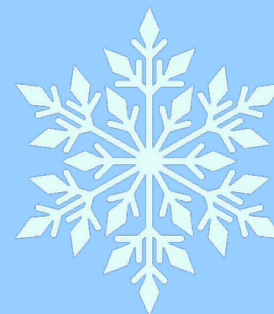
A publication of the Mayfair Civic Association
Neighbors making a difference since 1945

November 2021
Volume 24, Issue 5

November 10 Holiday Party at Marie's!

Our next meeting will be **our annual holiday party**, held a month early on November 10 from **5-7pm**. The event will be at Marie's Pizza & Liquors on 4129 W Lawrence Ave, in Marie's outdoor, heated plaza. This event will be in lieu of a November membership meeting.

Please mark your calendar and be sure to come!



Civic Association Officers

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Letter from the President

Ron Duplack

Our last meeting featured a visit with Congressman Quigley, who provided insights on current national issues. He addressed budget challenges, pending election-related investigations, and Democratic attempts to pass legislature that could ensure election integrity and broad-based participation. He also noted that he was in town to conduct special review of delivery and theft issues plaguing the postal service.

Alderman Nugent addressed a variety of community issues, including street paving efforts through the 39th Ward, speed light cameras along Cicero and Lawrence locations within the 45th Ward, and installation of stop signs at Kedvale and Wilson. We noted that the Park District is looking to confirm a ribbon-cutting at the new Playlot at that location on Saturday, November 13, and will advise once a time is confirmed. We discussed the possibility of whether bump-out and other garden maintenance might be funded at least in part through SSA or TIF funds, and whether such funds, or a participatory budget request, could fund a Fall 2022 sculpture installation at the Playlot.

Kemora Landscapes is currently transforming its location at 4635 W Lawrence through new painting and signage, installation of a cedar fence and entry points on Knox and Lawrence, with perimeter landscaping to follow. We applaud this investment in our business district.

Finally, we noted that because of Covid it's been over a year since we have had a physical meeting. Attendees indicated that they have been fully vaccinated and inquired about when we might meet again. After discussion, we elected to forgo our December party and instead to move it up a month and hold an outdoor event on November 10. See the top of this page for the time and location. Please mark your calendar!

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:

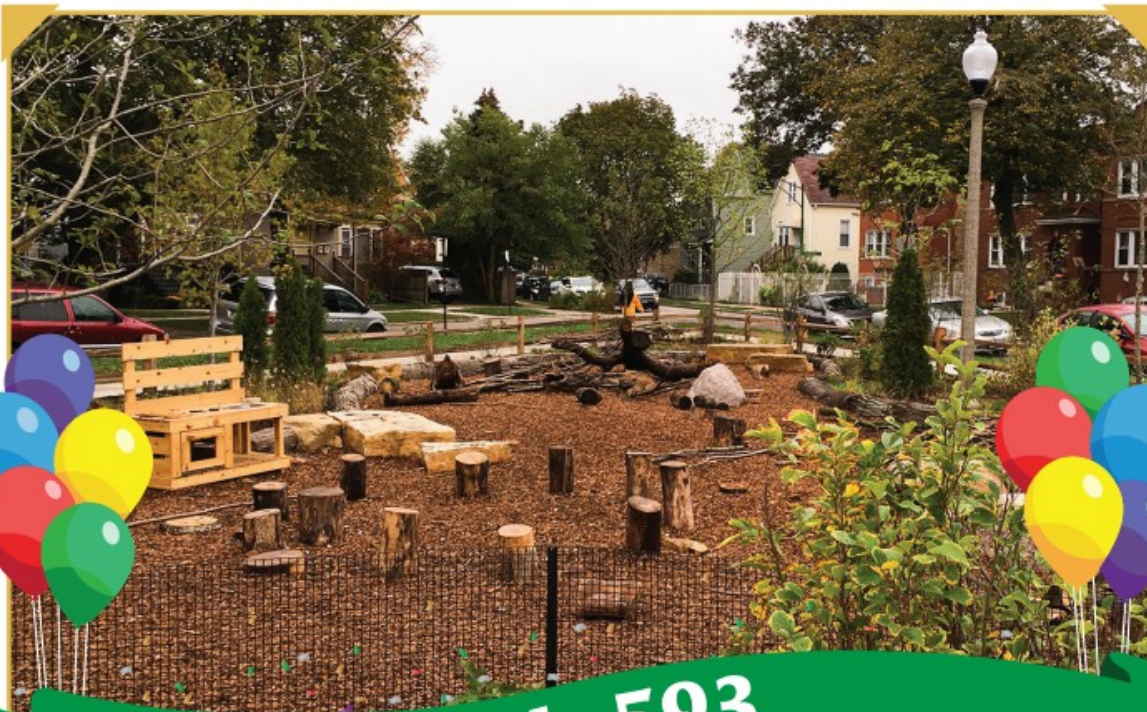
November 10
Annual Holiday Party!

December 9
TBD

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.

Mayfair Messenger

CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT



Park 593 Ribbon Cutting Celebration

Saturday, November 13th
10:00 am, 4546 N Kedvale Ave.

Join us for a ribbon cutting
celebration for Park 593!



For more information about your Chicago Park District
visit www.ChicagoParkDistrict.com or
call 312-742-7529 or 312-742-2001 (TTY)

City of Chicago, Lori E. Lightfoot, Mayor
Chicago Park District Board of Commissioners
Rosa Escareño, Interim General Superintendent & CEO

Samantha
NUGENT
39TH WARD ALDERMAN

STAY CONNECTED.



Membership Meetings

Here are some more details from the September and October meetings of the Mayfair Civic Association.

Congressman Quigley Updates

Postal service delays and thefts

Congressman Mike Quigley attended the October membership meeting and highlighted the problems that the city is having with postal service thefts and delays. The Congressman attended an October 15 congressional field hearing on the issue in downtown Chicago, requested by Congressman Danny Davis, entitled “Waiting on the Mail: Postal Service Standard Drops in Chicago and the Surrounding Area”. Congressman Quigley indicated during the membership meeting that about 75% of Chicago’s mail is delivered on time, and that it’s typical for 100-150 mail routes across the city to go either partially or entirely undelivered. He said the issue was partly due to resources and partly due to management, and that the City wants to hire about 700 additional personnel but are only halfway there. When Covid hit, first-class mail volume went down 42% while package delivery went up 120%, and the postal service delivers more packages than all commercial delivery services combined.

See the [update from Alderman Nugent](#) in this newsletter about what she’s been doing to address these issues.

For more information, refer to the following links:

- WGN News interview with Congressman Quigley: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-9cTc-wqVTQ>
- Chicago Sun-Times Article: <https://chicago.suntimes.com/politics/2021/10/15/2728928/postal-delivery-delays-mail-chicago>
- House Committee on Oversight and Reform hearing details: <https://oversight.house.gov/legislation/hearings/waiting-on-the-mail-postal-service-standard-drops-in-chicago-and-the>

Check your passports

Congressman Quigley wanted to remind people to check their passports. Many people haven’t checked in a while,

but if your passport expires within 6 months of travel, you’ll likely not be able to get it renewed in time, as the wait can be anywhere from 8 months to a year.

For information on passports, see

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html>.

Possible sculpture for Mayfair Park or Kedvale Playlot

Ron Duplack, President of the Mayfair Civic Association, mentioned having recently been involved in the installation of a number of sculptures in Ronan Park in his role with the North River Commission, an MCA affiliate organization. In the course of his involvement on the project, Ron also worked with Chicago Sculpture International, an organization that supervises and administers installation and removal of the sculptures, contracting with the artists to provide insurance, etc.

There are a couple of sculptures that will become available for Fall 2022, and Ron raised the possibility of engaging the community about supporting installation of a sculpture in either the Kedvale Playlot or Mayfair Park. There is a total cost of \$5,000 per sculpture that would need to be raised, including \$2,000 for installation and removal, with \$3,000 going to the artist. Funds could potentially come from a combination of SSA contributions, Participatory Budgeting, and/or community donations.

For more information, refer to the following links:

- Ronan Park Sculpture Garden: <https://northrivercommission.org/ronan-park-sculpture-garden/>
- Chicago Sculpture International’s “Sculpture in the Parks” exhibit: <https://www.chicagosculpture.org/sculpture-in-the-parks>

If you have questions or comments about this, please reach out to Ron Duplack at rduplack@rieckcrotty.com.

Membership Meetings

Questions for Alderman Nugent

Funding for bump-out garden maintenance

The issue was raised during the October membership meeting of funding for maintenance of the bump-out gardens around the neighborhood. The gardens were installed by the City a number of years ago, and community members have been maintaining them largely on their own. However, those community members are no longer available for the full work necessary for upkeep of the gardens, and need someone to take over the routine maintenance. We have tried relying on volunteer efforts for garden maintenance in the past, but these volunteer efforts themselves require time to solicit and coordinate, and can't be relied on consistently. This is an issue that have been raised a number of times in past membership meetings and issues of this newsletter.

In the search for funding sources, we've identified an account that has been shared in the past between the Mayfair and North Mayfair neighborhoods to store donations for beautification. Mayfair hasn't needed the funds for a while because community members have been doing the work on their own, and the account management seems to have changed. We are working with the Alderman's office and North Mayfair representatives to determine the current account manager, and whether there are funds available for our purpose.

Another possible source of funding for garden maintenance might be the new Pulaski Elston SSA #79, since the Sauganash SSA #62 is used in part to pay for flowers and related maintenance in that area. The Pulaski Elston SSA covers the area bordered by Lawrence on the north, Montrose on the south, Elston on the west, and Pulaski on the east. Funds for the SSA likely won't be available until next Fall, and the businesses participating in the SSA would need to agree to provide the funding for this purpose. The question was raised of whether TIF funds could be used for this purpose, but a representative for the Alderman's office indicated that TIFs are used for different purposes.

For more information, refer to the following links:

- Sauganash SSA #62: <http://escc60646.com/ssa/>
- Pulaski Elston SSA #79: <https://pulaskielstonstudy.org/>

Call for mud kitchen equipment for Kedvale Playlot

The Parks District has put out a call for kitchen utensils, bowls, etc. for the kids to play with in the mud kitchen in the Kedvale Playlot at 4546 N Kedvale. The request is for durable items that can withstand play. It's unclear how these items will be secured to the Playlot property or otherwise managed, and concerns were expressed during the September membership meeting about the items being plastic and eventually escaping the park and ending up as litter around the neighborhood.

If you have items that you think the kids might enjoy and would like to donate them, please reach out to us at mayfair-civic-newsletter@googlegroups.com. Thank you!

Missing pedestrian walkway between Edens Collection and Seafood City

During the October membership meeting, it was brought to the attention of the Alderman that there should perhaps be a pedestrian walkway between the Edens Collection shopping area and the neighboring property with Seafood City. It would make sense for such a walkway to exist, since otherwise shoppers must walk across parking lots and into the area that connects into the alley for Keating to go from one property to the other.

Beautification

Gabby Lambesis

Lawrence Avenue community garden bump-outs



We had a terrific gardening season this year with sunshine, sprinkles and just the right humidity. And thanks to the Mayfair Beautification Committee's garden volunteers, the bump out gardens along Lawrence Avenue and flower boxes on Elston Avenue all look spectacular! Our gardens are now ready for the next phase of work to be done and getting them ready for next spring.

Fall is a great time to pull weeds or turning in your tired-looking, heat-exhausted summer plants to the compost pile (without any guilt). Planting perennials and bulbs in October and November is another way to get gardens ready for next year. It is important to give your perennial beds a layer of mulch around the crowns of your plants to reduce the change of frost heaving. Taking care of these tasks will save you time in spring and help reduce the amount of pest and disease problems you might have to deal with next spring.



We would like to give a big thank you to our amazing volunteers' contribution and time in maintaining these garden bump outs. 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, Eric Skotmyr, Jessica Genualdi, the staff at Garcia Muffler, Mobil Gas Station, [Tohle Funeral](#), Dunkin Donuts/Baskin Robbins, [The Chicago Dental Studio](#), AT&T, and [Bertsch Properties](#).



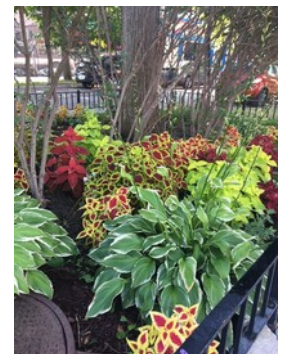
We also want to thank the following businesses that sponsored the garden bump outs: [Laborers International Union – Local #6](#), [Clark Street Sports](#), [Garcia Mufflers Corporation](#), [Halogen Supply Company, Inc.](#), Mayfair Shell, Mendoza Security, [Hala In Restaurant](#), [We Wash Car Care Center](#), Brian J. Grienberger from [www.BrokerBrianG.com](#), [Alderman Samantha Nugent](#), [State Representative John D'Amico 15th District](#), [Easy Breezy Laundry & Dry Cleaner](#), and [Dispatch Taxi Affiliation](#).

Lastly, a huge thank you to 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, [Plant Shop Chicago](#), [Schuham Builders Supply, Inc.](#) and

Star North Management LLC.

You all help make our community a beautiful place to live!

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



Updates from the Alderman

Samantha Nugent, 39th Ward

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

Postal service issues

I have been working with Congressman Quigley to address the mail delivery issues in the 39th Ward that are described in the [Membership Meetings](#) section of this newsletter. In August 2020, Aldermanic colleagues and I sent the Chicago Postmaster a letter outlining issues in mail service. In March 2021, I sent another letter addressing the same concerns, and I sent a third letter in May 2021. Over the past year, my office has filed over 500 complaints with the Congressman's Office and the USPS. It is my hope that we will see real improvements following the hearing. In the meantime, please contact my office if you are experiencing interruptions in your mail delivery. In the meantime, please contact my office if you are experiencing interruptions in your mail delivery.

Participatory Budgeting Cycle 3



I am excited to announce the kickoff of the third cycle of Participatory Budgeting (PB) in the 39th Ward!

PB is a democratic process in which community members directly decide how to spend part of the public budget, also known as the "menu". "Menu money" is ward-specific money that aldermen allocate to specific needs across the ward. I am setting \$500,000 aside from the menu for PB again this year. Check out projects from the last two years of PB here: [39th Ward PB](#).

PB in the 39th Ward is a three-step process:

1. Idea Collection - Residents submit infrastructure project ideas that they would like to be funded from the 39th Ward's Infrastructure Improvement Funds.
2. Review of Infrastructure Project Ideas - The PB Committee reviews infrastructure project ideas and determines what projects will be on the community ballot.

3. Community Vote - 39th Ward Residents, age 14 years and older, vote on the community ballot. The infrastructure projects that receive the most votes, which add up to \$500,000, will be funded.

We have partnered with [PB Chicago](#) to develop a new online forum to collect ideas, share information, and vote! This page makes it easier to submit ideas and projects for the ballot. You will need to sign up for an account to access the platform. You can sign up and submit an idea here: [PB 39](#). Idea collection runs through November 18th!

The PB Committee is vital to PB process. Sign up to join the PB Committee here: [Join the Committee](#). You can find the dates for the PB Committee meetings here: [PB Committee Dates](#).

The last two cycles of PB have been a great success and I am looking forward to another great year. Please call my office or email if you have any questions.

2022 Budget

On Wednesday, October 27th, I voted "yes" on the City of Chicago 2022 Budget. This budget outlines how we will rebound from the pandemic, meet pension obligations, and expand social services that complement existing city services. Below are a few highlights for the 39th Ward.

Public Safety remains a top priority. As I keep fighting for more officers, I am also advocating for critical investments in technology. For example, Strategic Defense Support Centers (SDSCs) bring police officers and data analysts together to help make policing safer and smarter. SDSCs are designed to help police make decisions with increased intelligence and understanding. The 17th District has had an SDSC since 2019. Last year I secured funding for an SDSC in the 16th District that recently became operational. This budget supports more Police Observation Devices (POD) and license plate readers (LPRs) for the POD cameras throughout the 39th Ward. POD cameras with attached LPRs feed critical information to SDSCs. The 2022 budget also closes the \$377 million gap in retroactive police pay and adds \$1 million for officer wellness.

Updates from the Alderman

Samantha Nugent, 39th Ward

2022 Budget (cont'd)

Last year, I started working on a cost-sharing flood control program with colleagues. Many homeowners in our ward are fearful that heavy rains may flood the sewer system and overflow into their basements. This budget includes a carveout for a shared-cost flood control pilot program that will assist 39th ward residents in protecting their homes.

In 2020, and in response to the pandemic, the City borrowed \$465 million and planned to borrow another \$500 million in 2021. With help from federal grants, we can pay back the \$465 million from last year and avoid the need to borrow this year. This grant prevented another dangerous “scoop and toss.” For the first time ever, payments for all four pension funds will be based on an actuarial calculation. This payment structure sets us on a responsible path to meet our pension obligations.

This budget also reinvests in vital city services. 30 additional tree trimming crews will be added to help clear the backlog of 311 requests. My office is collecting a list of

long-overdue tree trims. Please call our office to make sure your request is on the priority list. Forestry will also roll out a program to plant 15,000 trees a year for the next five years. Streets and Sanitation will use money from this budget to help replace broken black carts throughout the city.

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. **My office has modified its hours to better meet the needs of residents.** The office will be open to the public on Mondays from 9am to 7pm; Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9am to 5pm; and Fridays from 9am to 3pm. While the office is open for walk-ins, appointments are encouraged. We ask that everyone, regardless of vaccination status, wear a mask and maintain social distancing. If you’d like to set up an appointment, please contact us via phone at 773-736-5594 or email 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

CAPS Meetings (Beat 1722)

CAPS meetings for Beat 1722 are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is on November 17 at 6:30pm. Due to COVID-19, meetings are being held on Zoom. You can register in advance for the Zoom meeting by [clicking here](#).

For upcoming meeting info, or 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

Neighbor Wally Eliassen and North River Commission receive “Friends of the Parks” VIP award

Wally Eliassen, the man who is always walking around cleaning up and gardening in the neighborhood, was nominated for a Friends of the Parks Volunteers-In-Parks (VIP) Award on October 16. The nomination came through Mayfair Park Advisory Council. Friends of the Park wrote saying, “... you are being presented with the 2021 Stewardship Award in honor of the incredible work you’ve done to beautify and improve the natural assets in Mayfair Park and the surrounding community. You are one of 10 people or PACs/groups throughout Chicago being recognized as VIPs this year.” The presentations can be seen on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9mC2u6eQOc>.

North River Commission was also selected as one of the 10 selected because of their efforts to improve Ronan Park Sculpture Park. Mayfair Civic Association President Ron Duplack is a member of the leadership team on the North River Commission.

For more information, refer to the following links:

- Friends of the Parks website: <https://www.fotp.org/>
- North River Commission website: <https://northrivercommission.org/>

Congratulations to our distinguished neighbors!

Dance in Mayfair Park

The City of Chicago sponsored dance performances by [Dance Avondale](#) in Mayfair Park on September 18 and 19.



St Edward School & Parish 4343 W Sunnyside Avenue

Jenny Dreyer

October was a busy month at St. Edward School! We held a virtual book fair, raised money for the school in our annual Fall Walk-a-Thon, celebrated Homecoming, enjoyed a spooktacular Halloween Fun Fair, and participated in the Mission project to raise funds for the Women's Centers of Greater Chicagoland.



We are thankful for our generous and supportive school community and look forward to celebrating the Christmas season ahead with various activities and fundraisers!

available for purchase via online only thru Thursday, November 11. To order online or to make a donation to the 8th grade class fund visit:
<https://stedwardchicago.org/poinsettia-sale.html>.

Mark your calendar for these upcoming **Community Events** that benefit St. Ed's and give you a night off from cooking! Thank you for your support!

Lou Malnati's, Wednesday, November 10, 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM

3986 N. Avondale, Chicago
Mention St. Edward School when ordering for carryout/delivery within the zone or provide the flyer (retrieve on the St. Edward School website under Community Days) or order online and enter the promo code: FUNDSSES21

Chipotle Mexican Grill, Wednesday, December 1, 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM

4657 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago
Mention St. Edward School or provide the flyer (retrieve on the St. Edward School website under Community Days) or order online and enter the promo code: JH48YVT

Holiday Poinsettia Sale

Benefitting the Class of 2022

Home Grown by Holze's Corner Garden in Woodstock

Available Colors:



Poinsettia \$20.00 each

Poinsettia Donations Can Also Be Made for the Church

Sale Deadline November 11, 2021

Order Pickup December 4th, 2021

3pm - 7pm at St Edward School at the Dominican Learning Center (Gym)

Questions?

Email: Wendy Shear - wshear1012@gmail.com or Jenn Catron - jcatron528@gmail.com

Support the 8th grade class **Holiday Poinsettia Fundraiser!** Poinsettia plants in a variety of colors are

St. Edward School celebrates 112 years of providing a Catholic education to children in grades PK3 - 8th grade. You can contact office@stedwardschool.com to schedule an in-person tour or individual Zoom tour with our principal.

St. Edward School is a 2017 National Blue Ribbon Exemplary High Performing School. 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.



Spaghetti Dinner

Limited and reserved seating times to maintain Covid 19 protocols.

5:30-7:00 and 7:30-9:00

Each family will have an assigned table.

Adult \$10 / Children 10 & under \$8



ST. ED'S GYM
...
RETURN OF THE COWBOY CHOIR



To go orders also available for pick up:
Homemade sauce (\$10/quart) and
Meal in a Bag Dinner for 4 (\$25) available by pre-order

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