



Mayfair Messenger

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

May 2016
 Volume 19, Issue 5

May 12 meeting will address lots of potentials

You may have heard about the efforts underway to acquire a piece of property in the eastern half of Mayfair for a new park for the area's kids, who otherwise have to cross Elston Ave. to get to Mayfair Park.

Others may have heard about the renewed push for a zoning change to construct a community center in the alley behind the vacant Enterprise facility near the Lawrence/Elston intersection, and related safety, traffic, and parking concerns for businesses and residents in the western half of Mayfair.

For the scoop on both projects, please join us at the next MCA meeting, **Thursday, May 12**, at 7:30 p.m. at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox. See you there!



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Letter from the President

Ron Duplack

During April, there were several reports of violence and gunfire in surrounding business areas and near Mayfair Park. The greatest concerns arose from attacks at Brudder's Bar & Grill, 3600 N. Pulaski, and Bart's Coins & Collectibles, 3900 N. Pulaski. Police at the 17th District report that these weren't random attacks, but arose from specific circumstances, and are not representative of a general rise in violence in our community. Investigations are underway in those instances. In addition, a teenager was recently arrested near Mayfair in connection with gunfire heard near the park. We'll try to monitor these events, but clearly, everyone should be cautious and aware of their surroundings at all times. Also, don't hesitate to call 911 when needed.

At our last meeting, we continued the discussion regarding numerous issues and continuing neighbor dissatisfaction with the lack of progress and manner of construction at the Citgo station at 4251 W. Lawrence. Additional issues discussed included missing stop and parking signs, trucks and cars parked illegally on parkways, business signage obstructing sidewalks and public ways, and the absence of a public playlot or park in the portion of Mayfair located east of Elston Avenue.

Several members had previously volunteered to meet with Alderman Laurino and to conduct a coordinated 311 effort on these issues. We've had some success through these actions, including greater scrutiny of the gas station construction, replacement of several signs, and the beginning of discussions with the alderman regarding playlot considerations and identification of potential locations among properties currently listed for sale. If you're interested in these matters, please attend our next meeting to find out how you may help.

Members also addressed pending zoning and development issues related to traffic, parking, and safety concerns associated with renewed efforts to convert the former Enterprise Auto facility on Elston north of Lawrence into a community center. The next Zoning Board of Appeals hearing, which will address this zoning request, is currently scheduled downtown for 2:00 p.m. on June 17. This matter will remain a continuing agenda item of discussion for future meetings, including our next meeting scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on May 12 at the Irish American Heritage Center. We hope that you're able to join us.

Finally, a big thank you to Tom Keating and Wally Eliassen, who coordinated this year's Spring Clean-Up, and to all the volunteers who came out April 16 to spruce up the neighborhood.



Former service facility for Enterprise, located at 4846 N. Elston, is surrounded on all sides by alleys

Update from the Alderman

Margaret Laurino, 39th Ward

Please let me take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in Chicago's citywide Clean and Green Event, which was held on April 16. Your efforts to clean and beautify our community are greatly appreciated.

Are you considering having a garage sale after doing some spring cleaning? Please remember to pick up a garage sale permit in my public service office. Filling out the application only takes a few minutes. There's no charge for the permit, and you only need to bring proof of residence (e.g., driver's license, state ID, or utility bill).



Don't ignore the orange street-sweeping notice; it's posted at least one day in advance on a parkway tree or neighboring fence. Your neighbors will appreciate the clean sweep, and you'll avoid that orange ticket!

Just a reminder: street sweeping by the Department of Streets and Sanitation began on April 1. Street sweeping occurs between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on weekdays. Please watch for the brightly colored "No Parking" signs that are posted on parkway trees, light poles, or nearby fences. Failing to comply with these parking restrictions during street sweeping will result in a costly ticket.

Enjoy free events at North Park Village

Members of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago will be at the North Park Village Nature Center (5801 N. Pulaski) on Saturday, May 14. The brass quartet will perform from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

On Friday, May 27, from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., North Park Village will host the Late Great Nocturnal Night. You can learn about and look for wildlife that's active at night in the preserve, including raccoons, opossums, skunks, and perhaps even a flying squirrel.

Recent City Council activities

An ordinance I cosponsored passed in the city council, which will allow noncommercial vans and pick-up trucks to be parked on residential streets by the owner's home. A vehicle with a "B" plate—but no lettering or phone numbers—also is allowed to park in a residential area. Consequently, owners of these vans and pick-up trucks will no longer have to come into our office to obtain a special permit. The ordinance becomes effective on May 18.

However, commercial vehicles are still not allowed to park on residential streets overnight, nor are "junk trucks." Please call the office if you have any questions about the new ordinance.

I also introduced an ordinance amendment to lift the packaged goods moratorium that affects stores on Elston Avenue from Kentucky to Cicero, to allow Seafood City to sell alcohol in its new store at 5033 N. Elston.

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 W. Lawrence, 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. There's a convenient drop-off box at the office, and your donation can really make a difference in a person's life.

Street Sweeping for the Remainder of 2016

Scheduled street-sweeping dates for the Mayfair area; opposite sides of the street will be posted on each of the two dates listed.

Scheduled dates for **zone 3** (Cicero to Elston; Montrose to Lawrence; shown in pink)

- May 23, 24
- July 8, 11
- August 23, 24
- October 7, 11
- November 17, 18

Scheduled dates for **zone 4** (Elston to Pulaski; Montrose to Lawrence; shown in blue)

- May 25, 26
- July 12, 13
- August 25, 26
- October 12, 13



The MCA has identified the triangular lot bordered by Wilson, Kasson, and Kedvale Avenues (shown in dark green above) as having good potential for a new city playlot or park. Kids in the eastern part of Mayfair currently have to cross busy Elston Avenue to access Mayfair Park.

Irish American Heritage Center 4626 N. Knox Avenue

Kathy O'Neill

There's never a dull moment at the Irish American Heritage Center. Plan ahead to enjoy some of these stimulating activities, and invite your friends, too!

Get to know the "Hidden Kerry"

On May 6, Killarney-born author and journalist Breda Joy will transport you to the wild, witty side of Kerry.

Starting at 7 p.m., you'll enjoy colorful stories of a varied cast of characters encountered on the Kingdom's less-travelled paths, who will step out of the pages of the author's book, *Hidden Kerry, The Keys to the Kingdom*, during her reading.

Joy's journey begins at Tarbert on the River Shannon and finishes close to the Cork border under the Paps Mountains.

Stories of Lord Kenmare's doomed mansion (which hosted royal visitors until it burned down), the Moving Bog that swept an entire family to their deaths as they slept, and Big Bertha, who entered the Guinness Book of Records as the "oldest cow in the world," all come to life between the book covers.

Dramas include a daring plot hatched in Dingle to rescue Marie Antoinette, the

tale of the German U-boat that landed Greek sailors on the west Kerry coast, and the gun-running friar beheaded by Cromwellian soldiers on a lonely island.

One section of the book, "A Manner of Speaking," is devoted to Kerry's unique relationship with language, and records many inventive expressions.

Breda Joy has written for *Kerry's Eye* and *The Kerryman* for more than 30 years in her native Kerry. She has written three books, as well as published poetry in literary journals.

The evening with Breda Joy is free, and will be held in the library. *Hidden Kerry* will be available for sale for \$15, and Joy will be happy to sign your copy.

Bring out your hidden artistic talents

Channel your inner Picasso (or any of your favorite painters) this June with an evening of art, food, and drinks.

The highlight of Paints and Pints is a painting session with instructor Kathy Kelly, during which you aspiring artists can create a painting of your choice, and bring home your canvas creation.

The Paints and Pints class will be held in Room 109 on Friday, June 3, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The cost of admission includes art materials, prepared canvas, and a choice of one soft drink, glass of house wine, or domestic beer. There also will be bar service if you want to purchase food and drink.

After class, patrons can visit the Fifth Province for live music.

Tickets are \$45 for IAHC members or \$50 for general admission. Reservations are necessary, as this event has sold out in the past.

For reservations and to purchase tickets, please call (773) 282-7035, ext. 10, or visit www.irish-american.org.

Irish American Heritage Festival tickets on sale now!

Before you know it, it will be time to celebrate all things Irish at the 31st annual Irish American Heritage Festival. This year, Irish Fest will take place on July 8, 9, and 10. As always, it will showcase the finest in local and international Irish and American music, dance, and family activities. One of the IAHC's largest fundraisers, the festival directly supports and is held on the IAHC grounds.

So, don't make any other plans for that weekend. Instead, why not make sure you don't miss any of the fun and festivities, and buy your tickets now? That way you won't miss any of the great music and dance performances.

The weekend will be packed with all your festival favorites: a great music lineup, Irish and American food and drink from vendors, step dancers, cultural exhibits, children's activities, and dozens of vendors and artisans selling Irish clothing, music, and jewelry.

Cultural exhibits and programs in the art gallery, library, and museum include Irish language lessons and presentations, genealogy workshops, and storytelling sessions. Our tea room offers a proper cup of tea and sandwiches for purchase in the Shamrock American Room.

Back for 2016: Visits from Irish wolfhounds, the Men in Kilts Contest, the Freckle Contest, the Mashed Potato Eating Contest, the ShamRock Stars singing contest, the Hooley Hook-Up for singles, and Bingo and Sunday Mass BreakFEST on the fest grounds. (Fest admission is required to attend Sunday Mass and BreakFEST.)

Tickets are \$8 for Friday and \$15 for Saturday and Sunday. Tickets for children 12 and under are \$5, and children 4 and under are admitted free.

Advance tickets can be purchased by calling (773) 282-7035, ext. 10, or by visiting the IAHC office.



Breda Joy



News You Can Use

Free Residential Water Testing

Okay, we're not Flint, Michigan, and Chicago's water mains and pipes aren't made of lead. But older single-family or two-flat homes built before 1986 have lead service lines from the street to the house. With all the recent activity by the Department of Water Management (DWM) in replacing water mains and/or sewer lines—and resulting concerns about knocking loose protective coatings in these lead service lines—Chicago is offering to test the water entering your home to check its lead levels.

To request a free water-quality test, call 311. You'll receive a call back within two business days to schedule an appointment for a water sample to be taken. Results will be provided within three weeks.

If test results show lead levels above 15 parts per billion—the threshold for action—DWM will schedule a return visit, this time accompanied by a plumber and electrician, to evaluate the site, determine the potential source of lead, and recommend an appropriate mitigation plan. If your home tests above the threshold for lead, the city will help you identify the problem and recommend a plan of action to address it.

Shredding and Electronics Recycling Events

If you missed Alderman Laurino's recycling event in April (or arrived too late to get rid of that old VCR that finally kicked the bucket), you can still dispose of your old electronics safely (especially because the sanitation department won't pick up electronics tossed in the alley).



Here are additional electronics recycling events sponsored by Liberty Bank at its area branches. Shredding of paper documents also will be available. All events will run from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

- **May 7:** 1018 W. Touhy Ave., Park Ridge
- **May 21:** 6210 N. Milwaukee Ave.
- **July 23:** 6666 N. Lincoln Ave., Lincolnwood
- **August 6:** 7111 W. Foster Ave.
- **August 8:** 2392 N. Milwaukee Ave.
- **September 10:** 6210 N. Milwaukee Ave.

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Community First Medical Center Programs

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

Free skin screening available on two days

Dr. Taraneh Firoozi will perform a total body screening, or just check any areas of concern, on Friday, May 6, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. or Monday, May 9, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Community Education room. The screening is free, but registration is required.

Free healthy aging program

This program is targeted at individuals older than 55, and will be held on Friday, May 13, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Staff from the Rush Alzheimer Disease Center will discuss healthy aging and memory. Registration is not required.

Mather's Cafe hosts diabetes lecture

On May 24, learn about the signs and symptoms of diabetes, and the options for managing this serious chronic disease. Renée Sochacki, R.N., is a certified diabetes educator and will offer a free lecture at 12:30 p.m. at Mather's Cafe, 3235 N. Central. Advance registration is required; please call (773) 205-3300.

Also, the arthritis support group meets Thursday, May 26, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Free; registration is not required.

Around the Neighborhood

Montrose Blue Line Station Work Underway

“Your New Blue” renovations have started at the Montrose El station. Currently, the O’Hare-bound side of the station will be closed until Tuesday, May 17.

Then, starting at 9:00 p.m. on May 17, then opposite side of the station will close (trains bound for downtown) until Friday, June 7.

That means trains traveling along the closed side of the platform will bypass the Montrose stop during this period. So, until May 17, if you’re going toward O’Hare and want to get off at Montrose, you’ll have to continue to the Jefferson Park station, then catch a train back to Montrose.

After May 17, if you’re going toward downtown and want to get off at Montrose, you’ll have to go to the Addison station instead, then catch a train back to Montrose.

Of course, all this riding around will take some extra time out of your schedule, so plan ahead so you won’t miss any important appointments.



Mayfair Beautification

Gardeners, Get Ready to Grow

The Chicago Community Gardeners Association (CCGA) Resources Committee will hold a vegetable seedling distribution and wrought-iron sale on Saturday, May 14, at the Center for Green Technology, 445 N. Sacramento.

Besides providing vegetable seedlings to registered community gardeners, the CCGA will also be selling some new wrought-iron pieces obtained from a greenhouse that was going out of business. Shepherd’s hooks and many other pieces will be priced to sell at \$5 to \$8 each in the lobby of the Center for Green Technology. You don’t need to register for the vegetable distribution to purchase wrought-iron pieces.

The event time hasn’t been finalized; e-mail Mamie Gray at mamie@uic.edu with any questions. To learn more about the CCGA, visit chicagocommunitygardens.org.



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Mayfair Park 4550 W. Sunnyside Ave.

Maria McDorman



With the excitement surrounding the Cubs and the Sox this year, baseball will be front and center at Mayfair Park this year too!

Registration for these fun summer activities is ongoing. There are openings in

Day Camp, Extended Camp, and Art Camp too. Take a look at all the things you can do this summer, and register online at www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks/Mayfair-Park/, or stop in at the park anytime for more information.

- **Women's 16-inch Softball League:** May 23 to August 15, Mondays, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., for ages 18 and up (\$208)
- **Cubs Care Rookie Baseball:** June 8 to August 10, Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., co-ed, for ages 7 to 12 (free)
- **Day Camp:** July 5 to August 12, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., co-ed, for ages 6 to 12 (\$357)
- **Extended Day Camp:** July 5 to August 12, Monday through Friday, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., co-ed, for ages 6 to 12 (\$119)
- **Sports Camp:** August 15 to August 19, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., co-ed, for ages 6 to 10 (\$35)
- **Art Camp:** July 6 to August 10, Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (\$75)

St. Ed's T-ball at Mayfair Park

Keep your 3- to 6-year-old kids active, and help them pick up the basics of the game of baseball with St. Edward's Youth Program T-ball. Played at Mayfair Park on Thursday nights from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., the games in this instructional league start on June 16 and run through August 6. St. Edward's Youth Program will supply team jerseys, bases, balls, and bats. Kids will need to bring their own gloves and water bottles to every game and practice.

Applications are due by Friday, May 13 at the St. Edward School Office, 4343 W. Sunnyside Ave. The form can be found at www.stedwardschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/St-Eds-T-Ball-2016-Registration-Flyer1.pdf, or call the school at (773) 736-9133. The cost is just \$25 (payable to St. Edward Youth Program).

Vendors, plan ahead for the Mayfair Park Fest!

This year's fest is scheduled for Saturday, August 13, from noon to 8:00 p.m. We're looking for a few good vendors. Do you like to paint, take photographs, or create craft projects? Would you like to turn some of your art into income? The Mayfair Fest can help you test the waters and market your talents. For a vendor application, contact maria.mcdorman@chicagoparkdistrict.com, call (773) 685-3361, or stop by the park for more information.

Skills Program Gives Kids an Edge in Life

Cheryl Cepuran

This summer, there's an exciting new program coming to the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave. It's called the CORE4 Challenge summer day camp.

CORE4 Challenge is a summer-enrichment camp for boys and girls in grades 5 through 8. At the camp, kids have fun while learning the CORE4 life skills of Food, Fitness, Finances, and Friendships. These are skills that build confidence in kids by empowering them to make healthy choices as they navigate the difficult transitional years of middle

school, and prepare for what's to come in high school.

As the kids participate in the challenges, they'll learn the fundamentals of cooking, fitness, nutrition, money management, and social skills in a fun, safe, and nurturing environment. Games, activities, field trips, and team challenges are all part of the interactive

camp experience. Thanks to our partners, including the Sauganash Whole Foods store and the North Shore Community Bank, the kids will get hands-on learning.

In addition, the kids will participate in team-building, learn leadership skills, and get to practice these skills and build their confidence by concluding the program with a community service project. For more information, visit Core4Skills.com.

Discount available for Mayfair residents

The 3-week camp starts June 13, and runs Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., until July 1. Families of the Mayfair community can obtain a 20% discount on the CORE4 Challenge summer day camp by registering by May 20, and using the coupon code Mayfair20. To register, please call (773) 231-7414, or go to Core4Skills.com/Register. For more information or if you have questions, please contact Cheryl@core4skills.com.



Arts in the Mayfair Area

You don't have to go downtown to enjoy great entertainment. In fact, you don't have to go very far from Mayfair for drama, comedy, music, and more.

"Trash" at New American Folk Theater



Faded B-movie star Jinx Malibu has spent the last decade or so popping pills and hiding out in her wheelchair-bound mother's secluded, garbage-filled double-wide with her two children, older son Loogie and younger daughter Smudge.

When a handsome stranger arrives from Hollywood, could it be her big chance at a comeback?

The Den Theatre, 1333 N. Milwaukee, hosts the twisted comedy through May 15 on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20; visit www.newamericanfolktheatre.org, or call (773) 426-6442.

Second annual "Around the Corner" art exhibit

Teens "just around the corner" from their adult lives are being given an opportunity to exhibit their work. This year's theme: Dreams for the Future. This free multimedia event features musicians from Upbeat Music and Arts, visual artists from Luther North College Prep, Lydia Urban Academy, Steinmetz Academic Centre, and Aspira High School, and community leaders from buildOn (an after-school program at Schurz High School).

A reception for the "Around the Corner" art exhibit will take place on Saturday, May 14, the Hairpin Arts Center,

2810 N. Milwaukee (second floor) from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The exhibit also will be available on Sunday, May 15, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Comedic music at the Copernicus Center

Fans of rock, rap, or pop, don't be afraid of classical music, say the four gentlemen of the MozART group. All of them graduated from prestigious academies of music in Warsaw and Łódź, but they've chosen to play classical music in a humorous way to make it more accessible and entertaining.



They've created a unique musical cabaret, one where the music, not words, is the source of laughter. The MozART group uses a classical composition as canvas, analyzes its structure and theme, surrounds it with musical associations, and executes it with brilliant, outstanding ideas to make you laugh while you're constantly surprised and amazed.

The group will perform at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 22, at the Copernicus Center, 5216 W. Lawrence. Tickets are \$46 to \$58 for adults, \$38 to \$50 for seniors, and \$15 for students up to 18 years old (IDs will be checked). Purchase tickets online at www.ticketfly.com/purchase/event/1169071, or please call (877) 987-6487.

Satisfy a Craving at Fannie's

Mayfair residents have long put a bakery at the top of the list of desired businesses for our neighborhood. Last November, Stephanie Rybandt, a former Trinity Irish Dancer, opened Fannie's, a bakery, café, and boutique, at 5040 W. Montrose, near the Montrose/Milwaukee intersection.

She and her husband Troy originally opened a Fannie's in the Eisenhower Library in Harwood Heights. After searching for a site that had some of the infrastructure needed to expand their business, the Rybandts found this location, which formerly housed a pizza restaurant.

All the bakery items are made from scratch, and the café menu includes some unique selections. The location's additional space has allowed the

Rybandts to feature arts and crafts by local artists, as well as to host events and musical entertainment.

Close enough to walk to, Fannie's is open daily from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday, and from

7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekends. Try the Sunday brunch, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., or just pop in anytime for coffee and a sandwich or a bakery snack. For more information, visit FanniesCafe.com.



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Go Green: Get the *Mayfair Messenger* via e-mail

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!

CAPS meeting reassures Mayfair residents

Recent shooting incidents were isolated affairs, CAPS officer Maryjane Parks and Sergeant Michael Anderson reassured meeting attendees on April 24. However, they stressed that where needed, extra officers have been assigned to potential trouble spots. For example, extra tactical officers are patrolling Mayfair Park to discourage juveniles who belong to gangs from congregating there.

The officers did encourage residents to call 911 upon observing suspicious activity. They also noted that accurate descriptions help responding officers to track down offenders. "Be as specific as possible," they advised, "and don't be afraid to call 911."

Next CAPS meeting (Beat 1722)

Wednesday, May 18
4650 N. Pulaski Road
Community Room
7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

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).

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 Margie Scannell
4731 N. Kilbourn Ave.
Chicago, IL 60630