

# Mayfair Messenger

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

June 2020  
Volume 23, Issue 3

## Possible June 11 Meeting via Zoom

We hope to stage our next meeting at 7:30pm as a Zoom conference and will then address these and any other community concerns. We will provide Zoom contact instructions through a blast email once arrangements for the meeting are confirmed. Be sure we have your current contact information to ensure your ability to participate. Feel free to email any comments on either Target or DoorDash at anytime prior to the Zoom meeting.

### Civic Association Officers

- President:** Ron Duplack,  
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[keatingtj@gmail.com](mailto:keatingtj@gmail.com)
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[wjebde@aol.com](mailto:wjebde@aol.com)
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[gavinmargie@yahoo.com](mailto:gavinmargie@yahoo.com)

### Committee Heads

- Zoning/Development:** Christopher Lambesis,  
[chris@lambesis.net](mailto:chris@lambesis.net)
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- Beautification:** Tom Keating,  
[keatingj@gmail.com](mailto:keatingj@gmail.com)

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## Letter from the President

Ron Duplack

Like most communities and businesses, we continue to suffer through the Covid-19 pandemic. Recent data suggests that one in six persons knows someone directly or indirectly who has contracted the virus. All of us have sacrificed greatly to conform with restrictive measures imposed to minimize personal contact and associated risks. We applaud the efforts of those serving in the front lines, and deeply regret the extreme suffering and deprivation experienced by those who have lost family members, jobs and financial security as a result of this disease.

We have not held physical meetings during the past several months. However, circumstances affecting the neighborhood continue. We have sought to keep you advised through blast emails as information is received. Please provide current contact information if you have not seen these.

For example, the 85-unit senior housing project proposed at the corner of Pulaski and Leland (mentioned in our November 2019 issue) did not make the funding cut and at this point may be permanently shelved. Despite prior new business postings for a proposed new coffee shop and brew pub near Elston and Lawrence, work appears to be at a standstill, no doubt casualties of Covid-19. The Park District is also postponing any further work at Triangle Park due to Covid-19.

### 2020 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 2020, with proposed discussion topics.

**June 11**  
**September 10**

**October 8**  
**November 12**

**December 10**

Our Board generally meets during the intervening months.

## Letter from the President

Ron Duplack

Target's development at Foster and Cicero continues to move forward. As mentioned in our blast email last week, Alderman Nugent staged a Zoom meeting last Thursday evening, supported by North Mayfair Improvement Association, to allow Target to describe proposed operations. The meeting was also intended to provide surrounding communities an opportunity to consider relaxation of the current licensing moratorium to enable the Alderman to support a liquor license to the business. Many MCA and community members attended the Zoom meeting (myself included). If you weren't able to attend, we suggest you see the related Nadig coverage for details at <http://nadignewspapers.com/2020/05/29/target-on-foster-ave-to-include-starbucks-cvs-and-a-possibly-liquor-section/>.

Similarly, Door Dash is proceeding with the opening of a DoorDash Essentials Convenience Store at 4455 N Elston. DoorDash has opened a limited number of small e-commerce convenience/grocery warehouses across the country to provide essential products, snacks, beverages, etc. for delivery under 30 minutes. You can view the Elston menu on their website and test it out yourself. DoorDash typically employs 10-15 warehouse workers in each facility and drive upwards of 500 deliveries per day per depot. One of their top customer requests has been to add alcoholic beverages to their delivery assortment. They are currently in the final stages of obtaining a retail liquor license in Illinois for their first location (1010 N Hooker) and would like to start the application process for the N Elston location as well. This, too, would require relaxation of the local moratorium on liquor licensing. If MCA membership approves, we would issue a letter of support to the Alderman to support licensing applications by both Target and DoorDash. **Your input on each is requested.**

## Beautification

Gabby Lambesis



### Lawrence Avenue Community Garden Bump Outs

Spring is well underway and which means a busy time in the garden. This season our fantastic garden volunteers have planted their annuals in our community garden bump outs. When you walk down Lawrence Avenue you will see many of the annuals starting to beautifully bloom.

The Mayfair Beautification Committee would like 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.](#), [Yemen Restaurant](#), [Hala In Restaurant](#), [We Wash Car Care Center](#), Brian J. Grienenberger from [www.bjgproperties.com](http://www.bjgproperties.com), [Alderman Samantha Nugent](#), [State Representative John D'Amico 15th District](#), [Easy Breezy Laundry & Dry Cleaner](#), and [Dispatch Taxi Affiliation](#). Thank you to for your continued support!

Lastly, special thanks to our following hard-working garden volunteers for their contribution and time in maintaining our garden bump outs: Gavin and Margie Chase, Lillie Ashbury and KarenLynn Augustyn, Kathy

Payne, Tom Keating, Darlene McDermott, Pam and Ray Sanders, Wally and Bea Eliasen, and our two new volunteers Tom Danahy and St. Edward Cub Scout Pack 3904 and, Eric Skotmyr. All of your time, work and contributions always make our community a lovely place to live!

## Updates from the Alderman

Samantha Nugent, 39<sup>th</sup> Ward

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

### Covid-19 Guidelines for Phase III: Cautiously Reopen

Mayor Lightfoot, alongside the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH), has announced industry-specific guidelines for safely operating within Phase III: Cautiously Reopen. These guidelines are part of the city's Be Safe Chicago framework that will be used to guide Chicago's reopening process amid Covid-19.

For details on the Phase III guidelines, see <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid-19/home/reopening-business-portal.html>.

*Note from the editor: Mayor Lightfoot has announced June 3 as the date that Phase III will begin in Chicago. For details on that, see:*

- <http://nadignewspapers.com/2020/05/28/hair-salons-outdoor-cafes-in-chicago-can-open-june-3-five-days-after-the-suburbs/>
- <https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/chicago-set-to-enter-phase-3-of-reopening-on-june-3-mayor-announces/2279391/>

### CAPS Meetings (Beat 1722)

CAPS meetings for Beat 1722 are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is on June 17 at 7:00pm. Due to COVID-19, meetings are being held on Zoom. To attend, please email [caps.017district@chicagopolice.org](mailto:caps.017district@chicagopolice.org) to RSVP, and you will receive an invite for the meeting.

If you have questions or comments, please contact the CAPS office at 312-742-4588, or email [caps.017district@chicagopolice.org](mailto:caps.017district@chicagopolice.org). Learn about the CAPS program at <https://home.chicagopolice.org/office-of-community-policing/how-caps-works>.

### Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Request assistance for yourself or someone in need or volunteer to help a neighbor during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our office will work to match your request with a volunteer in your neighborhood.

- Request Help: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1LMUvBemVYLpvkIrSNCwydzH7PNGnf9z2ufubX038WYo/viewform?ts=5e729391&edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1LMUvBemVYLpvkIrSNCwydzH7PNGnf9z2ufubX038WYo/viewform?ts=5e729391&edit_requested=true)
- Volunteer to Help: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/113ROCY5WmbnlPqEMYAd0-MZKOYk7YqwfkfIB\\_Dp5YGI/viewform?ts=5e72939c&edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/113ROCY5WmbnlPqEMYAd0-MZKOYk7YqwfkfIB_Dp5YGI/viewform?ts=5e72939c&edit_requested=true)

### Visit and Subscribe!

Visit <https://aldermannugent.com/> to subscribe to Alderman Nugent's newsletter and learn about what she's doing for the 39<sup>th</sup> Ward. You can also visit her office at 4200 W Lawrence Ave Mondays from 9am-8pm and Tuesday-Friday from 9am-5pm.

### 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

#### 39<sup>th</sup> Ward Superintendent

312-459-7286

#### Rodent Control

312-746-5232 or 312-746-5233

## Neighborhood Checklist

Thomas Keating

The Mayfair Civic Association maintains a list of items around the neighborhood that are in need of attention. We will periodically highlight items from that list here, to draw attention and report on any progress or other changes. If there are items you'd like to see included in the list, contact Tom Keating, MCA VP, to discuss at [keatingtj@gmail.com](mailto:keatingtj@gmail.com), or attend an MCA meeting.

### Crosswalks on Lawrence between Elston and Cicero

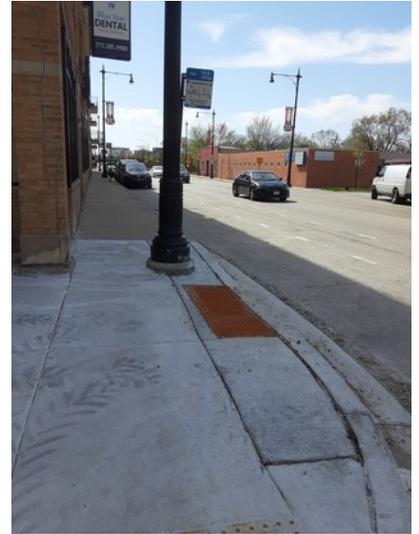
We first reported on this item in the 2019-11 issue of this newsletter, and are very pleased to report that we consider this item complete!

We have been without crossing areas along this stretch of road for a long time, which has presented a safety issue for people trying to cross Lawrence. The MCA has made requests for years to get crosswalks put in, but no progress had been made. It was one of the things that we brought to

Alderman Nugent's attention when she took her position in 2019.

There are now crossings at Kenneth, Knox, Kenton, and Kilbourn Avenues. The stripes have not been painted yet, but when that is done we will have a major improvement in our community.

Our sincere thanks go out to Alderman Nugent, who did an amazing job getting these crosswalks put in for us after so many years of waiting.



## Covid-19

### Survey: Is the "stay-at-home" order changing rat problems in Chicago?

The Lincoln Park Zoo is conducting a survey to determine if staying at home during these past few weeks has increased rat infestations in homes and if this change is associated with public health risks from rats or changes in attitudes about Chicago's wildlife. Your participation will help identify resident needs for rodent control, public health, and urban nature.

The anonymous survey will take 15 minutes, and the Zoo is interested in hearing from everyone over the age of 18, even if you do not currently have rat problems. To participate in the survey, visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ChicagoRats>.

### Farewell to a neighborhood hero

Mario Araujo, a Mayfair resident and firefighter for the Chicago Fire Department's Truck Company 25 in Roger's

Park, lost his fight with Covid-19 on April 7. He was the first member of the fire department to die of the disease. Our sincerest condolences go out to his family and friends. For more information on Mario and the funeral, see <https://chicago.suntimes.com/coronavirus/2020/4/13/21219677/mario-araujo-coronavirus-funeral-chicago-firefighter-covid-19>.



Figure 1: CFD personnel honor the late Mario Araujo during funeral

## Business Buzz

Jean-Marie Minton

In this section, we highlight businesses located in and around our Mayfair neighborhood.

In these pandemic times, as we long to get together with friends and family to participate in those gatherings we once took for granted, who knew that funerals would be near the top of the list?

In our little corner of Chicago, Tohle Funeral Home has been that gathering spot for families and friends of deceased loved ones since the early 1940's.

Ken Halter, present owner/operator and lifelong Mayfair resident, took some time in early April to share some of the history of this well-known Mayfair business.



Seems that back in the late 1930's, 3 Ohio farm boys earned their embalmers license over the course of a weekend. (That's how it was done back then!) One of the brothers decided to head to Chicago for more opportunities. That's when Ed Tohle, with his wife Mary, set up shop at the corner of Lawrence and Kostner.

Back in those days families laid their loved ones out at home, thereby limiting the guests that could attend a "wake". Not until the 1950's did funeral homes expand so that families could wake their deceased at the funeral home and host larger groups. Thus began the custom of "living above the shop" so as to be able to receive calls and deliveries at any time of day or night. Back then, Tohle Funeral Home was the only Catholic funeral home within a 10 mile radius.

In 1954 Ed and Mary, with no children of their own, invited their nephew Mike Coleman into the business and relocated it in a new building they had built at the corner of Lawrence and Lowell, where it has been ever since.

Back in 1976, Ken Halter, a pre-med major at the U of I, started working at Tohle's, doing odd jobs at the invitation of the owner Mike Coleman. Ken eventually decided to leave his medical studies to learn the business and work alongside Mike until Mike's passing in 2000 at the age of 65.

Forty-four years after he started working at Tohle Funeral Home and nearly eighty years after the business

was founded, Ken continues the legacy begun by Ed and Mary Tohle and nurtured by Mike Coleman.

During these very difficult days of Covid-19 isolation Ken reminds us that rituals reinforce community and family bonds. He also acknowledges the tremendous pain and sorrow families are experiencing at this time when they and friends are unable to celebrate the passing of a loved one in comforting and familiar ways. With that awareness he has expanded the online offerings on the business website, sharing valuable information and reaching out in new ways.

Perhaps then, one of the gifts of this pandemic will be the way we prepare for the final celebration of a life and that one of our neighborhood gathering places, Tohle Funeral Home, will be appreciated by us in ways we simply couldn't have imagined back when we couldn't have imagined life in a pandemic.

Learn more about Tohle Funeral Home and its services at <https://www.tohlefuneralhome.com/>.

What Mayfair business would you like to learn more about? Send an email with your request to [mayfair-civic-newsletter@googlegroups.com](mailto:mayfair-civic-newsletter@googlegroups.com).

## Support Local Businesses in Need!

The North River Commission, an MCA affiliate, has a list of businesses that need financial help during Covid-19. If you're lucky enough to be in a position to do so, please consider donating to some of your favorite spots at <https://northrivercommission.org/community-fundraisers/>. They also have a lot of other info about how you can get or receive help at <https://northrivercommission.org/covid-19/>.

## Irish American Heritage Center 4626 N. Knox Avenue



### IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER



The Mayfair Civic Association receives substantial support from the Irish American Heritage Center, who has graciously allowed us to stage meetings and events over the years without charge. The IAHC is a cornerstone of the neighborhood, hosting live music, theater, cultural events, and so much more.

Like many local businesses, IAHC has been hard-hit by the stay at home orders related to the Coronavirus pandemic. Its primary fundraising events have been canceled and it has set up a GoFundMe page to raise money to pay fixed bills. Please consider supporting the IAHC during this difficult time by donating at <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/the-g-team-the-gaels-and-generations-of-commitment-led-by-rich-godley-and-eileen-griffin>, or <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/until-we-meet-again>.

## St Edward School & Parish 4343 W Sunnyside Avenue

Jenny Dreyer



Congratulations to the class of 2020! We are BIG RED proud of our St. Edward graduates! Some of the high schools they will be attending in the fall include: DePaul Prep, Lane Tech, Loyola Academy, Notre Dame, St. Patrick, Regina Dominican, and Trinity.

Two beloved St. Edward teachers have retired after many dedicated years of service. Ms. Cindy Rosasco served for 38

years, and Sister Shirley Stockus served 22. The St. Edward community thanks both of them for their commitment and contributions. We wish them all the best!

Our Fund-a-Need program to purchase new, flexible furniture for each classroom will continue into the fall. To date, the school has raised enough funds to begin the purchase of flexible furniture options for a few classrooms! In honor of the Class of 2020, donate \$20.20. Your donation will be matched and if we raise \$5,000, we can name a classroom after the Class of 2020! Visit [www.stewardchicago.org/fund-a-need.html](http://www.stewardchicago.org/fund-a-need.html) to donate.



During May's Teacher Appreciation Week, students and families showed their Big Red spirit and honored their teachers by participating in a social distance parade! The cars drove past the teachers with signs of appreciation and support. The teachers also made signs telling the students how much they are missed.

This year, St. Edward School celebrates 110 years of providing a Catholic education to children in grades PK3 – 8th grade! St. Edward School is a 2017 National Blue Ribbon Exemplary High Performing School. We are accepting 2020-2021 registrations for new families. Scholarships are available through our parish, the Archdiocese, and the government. Take our virtual school tour at: <https://youtu.be/cMIMJMjoO1k>.

For more information or to request an individual tour, please visit our website at [www.stedwardschool.com](http://www.stedwardschool.com).

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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, you can 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 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