

Bowmanville Bee



The Bowmanville neighborhood is bordered by Foster, Bowmanville, Ravenswood and Western. Visit our website at www.bcochicago.org

Spring 2006

Who's who in the BCO

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Community
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1-866-837-1006

Letter from the President

By Ellen Jurczak

The BCO recently met with Alderman O'Connor to discuss a variety of issues and I would like to share our discussions with you.

Real Estate Developments

The City plans to purchase property on the west side of Rosehill Cemetery and create a new park. However, they were not able to come to agreement with the owners with regard to the price and conditions of purchase. The City then filed a lawsuit to condemn the property. This allows the court to decide on a fair price. Alderman O'Connor feels the City is in a good position. However, this type of lawsuit takes about two years to resolve and we are about ten months into the process.

The Griffin Theater is in the process of raising money to convert the police station at Foster and Winchester into a theater. The decision is not final but Griffin is making steady progress and the City is working with them to help make their project a reality.

We will keep you posted on proposed developments along Foster. A couple of projects have been proposed that will require zoning changes. The real estate developers have not yet made final commitments to their projects. If zoning changes are required, the BCO will schedule Town Hall meetings.

Traffic-related Issues

The bump-out at Berwyn and Bowmanville will be relocated. It was done incorrectly and will be completed in accordance with the original plan.

Signs forbidding trucks to turn onto Bowmanville from Western disappeared and will be replaced.

There was a request for speed bumps on Ravenswood and Alderman O'Connor advised us to have the requestor prepare a petition and have it signed by residents along Ravenswood. He wants assurance that more than a few people are interested in having speed bumps installed.

Other Issues

We mentioned excess trash that the business owners on the south end of Damen and other homeowners had complained about. The alderman believes it is a private hauler (for an apartment building or business) and asked that we determine the day of the week the trash appears. He has a schedule for the private haulers and can determine the potential sources if we can figure out the day of the week it occurs.

Target is donating trees to the City and we have made a request for 12 – 15 trees for Damen Avenue.

The BCO meets with Alderman O'Connor quarterly and the next meeting will be in May. If you have comments or questions about the projects described in this article or there are issues you would like the BCO discuss at our next meeting with the alderman, please e-mail them via our website (www.bcochicago.org) or leave a message on the BCO hotline:

1-866-837-1006.

Needs Assessment Results!



The Bowmanville Community Organization (BCO) was established to help address the needs of the members of our community. We have accomplished much over the years due to the support of the many volunteers who have worked to make our community one of the safest and most livable neighborhoods in Chicago. On January 7th and 8th, the BCO delivered a Needs Assessment questionnaire to each member of the BCO in order to obtain feedback to help define the short-term and long-term goals of the BCO and to ensure that Bowmanville continues to thrive.

The Needs Assessments collected produced the following results:

What's Important to Members

- Well Lit Streets
- Condition of Sidewalks & Curbs
- Viaducts at Berwyn & Balmoral
- Condition of Retail Storefronts on Damen
- Bowmanville Bee & BCO's Overall Communication
- Ice-Cream Social & Street/Yard Sale

What Types of Businesses /Services Would Members Like to See on Damen and/or Foster Avenue

- Grocery/Convenience Store
- Dry Cleaners
- Restaurant
- Coffee Shop
- Art Gallery

Thank you to all members who responded to the Needs Assessment. Our goal is to use your feedback to help define the short-term and long-term goals of the BCO.

If you have any questions regarding the Needs Assessment or would like to obtain a copy, please contact Mark C. Soehn (Vice President) at (773) 714-1542.

Welcome to Bowmanville



Rogers Park Montessori School (RPMS) completed construction of their two-story, 104,819 square foot facility in time to welcome students this winter. The building features "green elements" and was constructed according to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) guidelines.

The school presently serves pre-school through high school students and may offer early childcare in the future.

The school site was formerly owned by the railroad and zoned for manufacturing and has been vacant for years.

Target Store Update

The new 160,000 square foot Peterson Avenue Target is scheduled to open this summer. The \$42 million project will be the first environmentally sensitive store. More than half of the store's net roof area will be covered with plant materials.

Target has pledged to hire from the local community and is planning a job fair for local area residents looking for employment.

*****Volunteers Needed*****

The BCO is looking for volunteers to help with membership outreach, events, planning and development, gardening, the newsletter, etc. If you're interested, or just want to find out more, please contact any of the officers or committee chairs listed in this Bee.



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Elegy to El Tipico

On Foster

By Rebecca Meyers

"Salt?" or "No salt?" has come to a halt,
In this fine land of the Bowman.
'Cause with these high taxes, the simple fact is,
Who can pass up on the dough man?

So it's no more salsa and no more chips,
And no more locals earning modest tips.
Just another McCondo, fast cheap and uniform,
Bland as hell, don't you abhor 'em?

Remember when a new home was built with a yard?
Outdoor green space with drainage?
Now streets and alleys, down spouts
And sewers back up with a little rainage.

Shop Bowmanville

You have probably noticed several new businesses near Foster on the west side of Damen Avenue. My curiosity was piqued so I interviewed the owners to find out more about their businesses. Starting from the south and going north:



Easy Street has been operating at 5206 N. Damen for about a year and a half and features antiques and vintage collectibles that are at least 25 years old. Kathleen Schneider, the owner, obtains merchandise from estate sales, garage sales and other sources. Traditional and modern art as well as jewelry, books, LPs and glassware are available. Easy Street has a reputation for reasonable prices which range from \$3 to \$300. Hours are from 12 – 9 Monday through Friday and 11 – 7 on Saturday. You can contact Easy Street at 728-6978.

Morpho Gallery is located at 5216 N. Damen and features a variety of artwork. The gallery is owned by David Leigh and carries antique prints and etchings and well as pre-1900 lithographs. Local artists' works (glass, paintings, prints and photography) are also featured and change on a regular basis. You can view featured artists' works at the Morpho Gallery website: www.morphogallery.com. Prices range from \$20 to \$3000. Hours are from noon – 6 on Saturday and by appointment. You can contact Morpho Gallery by phone at 551-4850, by fax at 878-4255 or by e-mail at morphogallery@aol.com.

Linda M. Mandel Ltd., located at 5218 N. Damen, is an interior plantscaping company. They design, sell, and place plants, orchids and trees inside customers' homes and businesses. They also offer maintenance (watering, fertilizing, trimming, etc.) programs on a weekly, biweekly and monthly basis. Hours are by appointment only. The main office is in Highland Park and has been serving the Chicagoland area since 1982. You can contact Linda Mandel by phone at 847/614-4895, by fax at 847-748-8375 or by e-mail at Lindamandel@aol.com.

Black Dog Furniture, located at 5220 N. Damen, is owned by Joel Brinkman who restores furniture and designs and builds custom furniture. About 25% of his work is restoration. Most of his work is in Oak Park and he gets new customers by word of mouth. 100% satisfaction is guaranteed. Prices range from \$100 to \$15,000. Joel is at his shop every weekday and Saturday and can be contacted by phone at 769-3434 or 847/809-7426 or by e-mail at blackdogfurniture@yahoo.com.

The next time you have the opportunity, take a few minutes to check out the shops along Damen and support our local businesses.

Happy Spring!



Hi Neighbor,

I thought a progress report on the 'State of the Neighborhood' might be interesting, so I put together this little chart.

All indicators are looking up! Feel free to give me a call if you have any questions about this chart or specifics on your own home.

Buying or Selling, I Can Help!



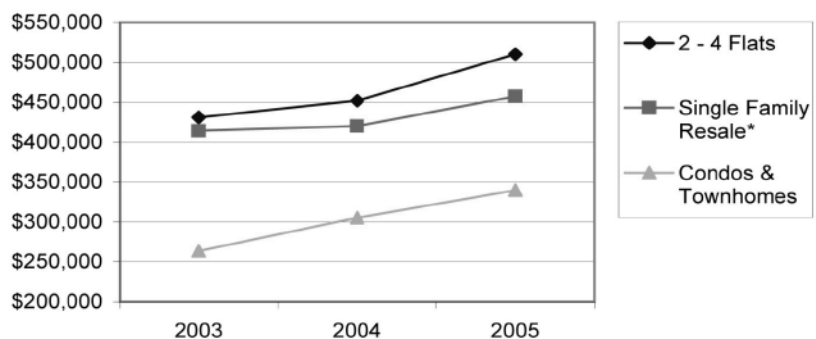
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Bowmanville Average Sale Prices: 2003 thru 2005



*Excludes New construction

Data Source: Multiple Listing Service of Northern Illinois



Check out...
BowmanvilleLiving.com



Chappell Elementary Facing Drastic Budget Cuts

By Heidi Kafka



All Chicago Public Schools are facing tough choices as current budget cuts threaten teachers' jobs and education programs. At Chappell Elementary, declining enrollment is forcing cuts to teaching jobs, ancillary programs and an accelerated academic program the BCO had strongly supported.

Chappell lost 125 students from last year's enrollment of 540 as out of district students returned to their previously overcrowded schools and increased property values forced low-income families out of the neighborhood.

With the decrease in enrollment, Chappell will receive \$96,000 less in discretionary funds and four to five teacher positions will be cut. Parents, teachers, administrators and community members wrestled with several alternatives in their struggle to keep educational standards intact. The uneasy compromise left everyone feeling they had lost something. The positions of computer teacher, curriculum coordinator, kindergarten aide, school community representative, in-school suspension room teacher and librarian were all eliminated, and the Art/Music teacher was cut to a half time position. The library will be staffed by a librarian's assistant.

The LSC and teachers agreed to keep gym as a full time position, even though only a half time position will be funded by the board. The cuts in the ancillary programs are an effort to avoid split classrooms in which two grade levels share one room. Even with major cuts in programs, there will still be two split classrooms next year.

Calling All Artists

The Bowmanville Arts Festival Committee



The BCO will be hosting its first annual outdoor Arts Festival in September, just prior to the Chicago "Artist's Month" activities scheduled in October.

The festival will feature juried art showcasing approximately 40 artists exhibiting a wide range of original artwork. Theater or dance groups and musicians are also encouraged to participate. Here's the chance to share your talents in an exciting and unique area of the city. There will be kid's activities and art demonstrations along with dining opportunities provided by local restaurants.

The following media are acceptable in the show: ceramics, drawing, fiber non-functional, fiber wearable, digital art, computer-generated art, paper, furniture, glass, jewelry, painting, sculpture, wood, mixed media, collage, photography & printmaking. The sale of non-original items is prohibited. Individual consideration of any media not listed will be given upon request.

The festival is expected to continue as an annual event that is beneficial to artists and the local community and will be located on Damen Avenue north of Foster. This location offers an ideal situation of visibility and easy access to the public. Parking is close by and public transportation is available on Foster or Western.

If you are interested in exhibiting, contact us toll-free at 866-837-1006 or visit our website at www.bcochicago.org.
Please reply by April 30, 2006.

Accelerated Program Axed

Chappell began an accelerated kindergarten this year with the intention of expanding the program one grade level each year as the students advanced. Supporters of the program envisioned an opportunity to improve the overall quality of Chappell by attracting families with high achievement expectations. Ironically, the influx of higher income households—which might seem like an obvious source of achievement oriented enrollment—seems to have forced an end to this vision, at least for now. The 11 students who participated in the program this year will be facing a split 1st/2nd grade class in the fall of 2006. Members of the Chappell Local School Council (LSC) met with Alderman O'Connor on March 15 to discuss the negative impact the loss of funding will have on the school. The Alderman will be working with the Chappell LSC to appeal some of the cuts.

How to help

Elections for CPS Local School Councils will take place on 4-19 for elementary schools and 4-20 for high schools from 6 A.M. to 7 P.M. Candidates will serve for two years. All community members in the school's attendance area can vote, even if they don't have children attending the school.

Chappell LSC meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 3:00 P.M. and are open to the public. In April and May, Chicago Public Radio will be airing a series of programs about the importance and cost of quality education. Go to chicagomatters.org for more information.

Heidi Kafka resides in the Bowmanville area, and serves as a community representative and secretary on the Chappell LSC.

EVENTS COMMITTEE 2006

By Judy Andersen

The 10th Annual Street Sale is scheduled for Saturday, June 3rd. Please be aware of an increase in the entry fee from \$8.00 for members to \$10.00 and for non-members it is \$15.00 up from \$10.00 in previous years. This was made necessary as our expenses for printing and advertising have gone up.

The 8th Annual Garden Walk will be held Saturday, August 5th. We are looking for everyone's participation. In the past, we have had as many as 18 Gardens on view. We hope to add to that number this walk this year. When we stroll around the neighborhood, we see many lovely gardens that we think should enter. Please give it consideration. People from all of the Chicago area, who come to visit the Garden Walk, often comment on how much this community has to offer.

We are adding another feature to our calendar this year. On Sunday, September 10th, we will host our very first Bowmanville Art Festival. This will be a juried exhibit showcasing, not only, artists but theatre, music and dance along with a neighborhood children's original art exhibit in their very own booth. We are looking for artists in the area who may wish to join us.

Come join us for food and entertainment in your very own back yard, Damen Avenue at Foster. Information and packets will be available upon request.

Applications for all of the above activities will be available shortly and may be downloaded on the BCO website.

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Bee Contributions Welcome



Have a story to tell, a horn to toot about a good neighbor we should all know about, or an article to contribute? Submissions from all ages are welcome. Please contact us at news@bcochicago.org

Bee Counted - Advertise!

Card \$20 (with artwork)
Card \$30 (without art)
3.5"W X 2"H

Quarter Page \$75
3.5"W X 5"H

Half Page \$150
7.75W X 5"H

For further information, or to reserve space in the next issue of the Bowmanville Bee, please contact us at ads@bcochicago.org.



Help Deliver the Bee!

Volunteers are always needed and welcome! Please call Scott Galassini at (866)837-1006.

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Contact Craig Hanenburg at 506-1696 or treasurer@bcochicago.org



BCO Calendar of Events

BCO Board Meetings, Third Thursday each month, 7:30 PM at Tempel Steel Training Room, 5448 N. Wolcott.

Communication Committee Meetings, first Thursday of each month.

Planning and Development Committee Meetings, last Monday of each month

40th Ward Town Hall Meeting, 7:00 PM at St. Gregory's Gymnasium (1609 W. Gregory - In Bingo Hall)

BCO Yard Sale - Saturday, June 3, 2006

BCO Garden Walk - Saturday, August 5, 2006

BCO Arts Festival - Sunday, September 10, 2006

For up to the minute details on BCO Meeting/Event locations, dates and times, be sure to check www.bcochicago.org, or call 1-866-837-1006.

Need another Bee? You can find them in the following local businesses...

Curves	5360 N. Lincoln Avenue
North Community Bank	5241 N. Western Avenue
Pauline's Restaurant	1754 W. Balmoral Avenue
Claddagh Ring	2308 W. Foster Avenue

Join the BCO

\$12 Join or renew your membership today! Please return this form with your check for \$12.00 to the Bowmanville Community Organization to: BCO, c/o Craig Hanenburg, 5361 N. Bowmanville, Chicago, 60625. Questions? Call Craig at (866)837-1006 or email membership@bcochicago.org.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

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Zip _____

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Renewal New Member Committee I'd serve on: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!