

Bowmanville Bee



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

Summer 2006

Who's who in the BCO

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**BCO** Bowmanville
Community
Organization
www.bcochicago.org
1-866-837-1006

Letter from the President

By Ellen Jurczak

On May 8, 2006, members of the BCO met with Alderman Patrick O'Connor to discuss community issues and I would like to take this opportunity to share our discussion with you.

Real Estate Developments

There is no change in the status of the development of the west side of Rosehill Cemetery. The City and property owners are still in court and there is a Court Order that forbids the owners from doing anything with the property until the lawsuit is resolved. It will be about a year before a final decision is made.

The residents near the 2130 Foster property submitted a petition protesting the proposed development to the alderman. Development of the properties at 2130 W. Foster and 2326 – 2334 W. Foster (the old Al Khayam restaurant) are both at a standstill and the owners of the Al Khayam property have indicated they may sell it.

The Griffin Theater owners are working with the City on a redevelopment plan. The City Council meets the end of May at which time they will vote on an enabling ordinance. This will allow the City to enter into an agreement with the Griffin. Alderman O'Connor hopes the redevelopment will begin this fall.

Traffic-related Issues

In response to an e-mail, the same types of signs as are installed near Chicago Public Schools were requested for the Rogers Park Montessori School. Alderman O'Connor was agreeable to the idea and will determine which signs are appropriate. He indicated the person in charge of installing signs is not returning until June due to an illness.

Brighter streetlights are being installed and this has generated requests for shields to block light that is, for example, shining into a bedroom window. To request a shield, contact the alderman's office (773)769-1140 or (312)744-6858.

Other Issues

Target is donating trees to the City and we will receive 12 trees for Damen Avenue. The BCO also requested trash cans for Damen Avenue but has not yet received any. Alderman O'Connor said he would investigate the matter.

If you have any issues that you would like the BCO to discuss at the next meeting with Alderman O'Connor, -please contact us through the BCO website (www.bcochicago.org) or the BCO hotline (866-837-1006).

The nice weather is just around the corner and the BCO events are about to begin. Check out the BCO Calendar of Events on the back page for exact dates, times, location and contact information or just give us a call.

I hope to see you around the neighborhood.

Your Membership Matters to the BCO

By Ellen Jurczak, President

As summer approaches, the BCO is gearing up to launch the events that help make Bowmanville a community. Events such as the Yard Sale and Ice Cream Social bring neighbors together and create friendships. The success of The BCO is due in part to the generosity of its supporters. Here are just a few reasons why membership is so important to the BCO:

- **Membership gives our organization political clout and a larger voice in the community.** As our membership grows, so does our presence in the 40th Ward and in the City.
- **Membership provides financial stability over time.** Having members that are passionate about Bowmanville and can see the impact that our work has had on their community and landscape will ensure that we will be able to pursue our goals into the future.
- **Membership gives you a voice!** Becoming a member or renewing your membership is an easy way for you to make a difference in your community. Every time you donate to the BCO you are making an investment in the future of Bowmanville.

There are advantages for members such as e-mail blasts when important events, such as Town Hall Meetings, are scheduled. Members also receive discounts on events such as the Yard Sale.

We are grateful to all of our members for making our important work possible – thank you!

Become a member or renew your membership now!

Bowmanville Included in List of Next “Hot” Areas

By Jay Rehak

If you currently own property in Bowmanville, you'll be happy to know that our jewel of a neighborhood is becoming evermore popular with home-buyers. In fact, our neighborhood is “Hot”, according to a recent article published in Crain's Chicago Business. According to an agent with the Chicago North office of Baird & Warner, our home values are on the rise.

A recent article entitled, “\$1 Million Dollar Homes in their Sights” written by Dan Rafter and published in the April 3, 2006 edition of Crain's Chicago Business is quoted as saying, “Bowmanville prices are slowly crawling into the \$700,000 range.” Baird & Warner further notes in this article that the surrounding neighborhoods have already seen large increases in property values. This article also offers a tip to those looking to buy real estate as an investment, “If you had extra money to invest, I'd see where the hot neighborhoods are now, then go the next four blocks over to invest. If you can afford to sit on things, you know that is going to be the next hot area.”

One common characteristic noted to contribute to increased home values in these “Hot” areas in and around the Chicagoland area is the fact that they are conveniently located near public transportation. Bowmanville is conveniently nestled between three major CTA bus routes – the #92 Foster Avenue bus, the #50 Damen Avenue bus and the #49B North Western Avenue bus – that can get you anywhere in the city and beyond.

The full text of the article can be found at: http://chicagobusiness.com/cgi-bin/mag/article.pl?article_id=25435&bt=homes+in+their+sights&arc=n&searchType=

THANKS FOR YOUR DEDICATION

A great big **THANK YOU** goes to **Betty Redmond** who for many years produced and edited the *Bowmanville Bee* single-handedly. As you may imagine, this is a huge task and takes hours to produce.

Betty has recently taken a backseat on the Bee, but continues to be a driving force in the organization and we thank her for all of her contributions over the years.

Drake & Son Funeral Home

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(773) 561-6874

Funeral Directors:
John M. Belovich, Karle R. Meyer,
David McKee
Melvin R. Linden, Manager



Drake & Son Funeral Home is owned by
SCI Illinois Services, Inc.



Garden News

Celebrating 10 years of beautifying Bowmanville

Community Gardening Schedule Announced

Sharpen your shovels, grab your kneepads and spend some time getting to know your neighbors in the Bowmanville Community Gardens this summer.

Beginning in June, neighbors are invited to join in helping us maintain our beautiful gardens on the second Wednesday evening and fourth Saturday morning of each month through October:

Second Wednesday of each month
6:30 p.m. till dark

June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13, & October 11
Meet in *The Bowmanville Garden* at the intersection of *Leavitt, Balmoral and Bowmanville*.

Fourth Saturday of each month
9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23, & October 28
Meet in *The Bowmanville Garden* at the intersection of *Leavitt, Balmoral and Bowmanville*.

GreenNet Awards Hardscape Improvement Grant to Bowmanville Garden

A \$300 grant has been awarded for the creation of a rock retaining wall in the Bowmanville Garden by GreenNet, a coalition of non-profit organizations and public agencies committed to developing joint efforts to improve the quality, amount, use, and wide geographic distribution of sustainable, green open space in the City of Chicago. Special thanks to BCO Gardening Committee Chair Tom Kennedy for his efforts in obtaining this improvement grant.

Watch for details regarding the retaining wall installation in the next issue of the *Bee*.

NeighborSpace Profiles Bowmanville Garden

A profile of the Bowmanville Garden—which was created 10 years ago by a few passionate gardeners and has expanded ever since through the volunteer efforts of the Bowmanville community and generous contributions of manpower and other resources by non-profit organizations such as Green Corps and GreenNet—will be added to the NeighborSpace website. Check it out at www.neighbor-space.org/about.htm.

Thank you to all of the neighbors who showed up on Saturday, May 20 for the annual **Garden Clean Up Day** at *The Bowmanville Garden*. Thanks to your efforts, the weeds are on the run!

Questions? Send an email to gardening@bcochicago.org or stop by the garden on any second Wednesday or fourth Saturday this summer. We look forward to seeing you there!

Care for Real Extends Borders to Include Bowmanville

Care for Real provides food, clothing, and referral services to residents in need. This organization recently celebrating 35 years of service predominantly to the Edgewater Community, but recently extended its borders to include Bowmanville. *Care for Real* is an active partner of the Greater Chicago Food Depository and distributes over four tons of food to an average of 500 households each month to those in need. Additionally, *Care for Real* receives and distributes hundreds of bags of clothing each month and relies of volunteers who give an average of 100 hours per week.

Care for Real relies on contributions of gently used clothes, canned and dry foods, monetary contributions and volunteers to support the pantry.

If you are so inclined, *Care for Real* will be hosting their 21st Annual Hunger Walk on Saturday, June 24th from Montrose Harbor. Proceeds from the walk directly benefit the soup kitchens, food pantries and shelters that are member agencies of the Greater Chicago Food Depository. For more information on the Hunger Walk, call *Care for Real* at 773-769-6182.

Care for Real is a charitable organization and donations are tax-deductible. They are located at 6044 North Broadway, Chicago, Illinois 60660. careforreal@juno.com.



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All Aboard the Free Loop Tour Train



The Chicago Architectural Foundation and the Chicago Transit Authority have partnered with the Chicago Office of Tourism to create the Loop Tour Train and includes a rail tour of Chicago's historic downtown Loop neighborhood. CAF docents present the history of the 130-year-old downtown area and the "El" system on this 40-minute tour. The train circles the Loop three times while riders view the beautiful downtown areas that are otherwise hidden amongst the tall buildings.

Tickets for the Loop Tour Train are available at the Chicago Office of Tourism Visitors Information Center in the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph Street at Michigan Avenue and are free upon request. Loop Tour Train tickets are available on the day of the tour only and are issued on a first come, first served basis when the Chicago Cultural Center opens at 9:00 a.m. on Saturdays.



The Loop Tour Train began running on May 6th and is available through September 30th. This 40-minute tour departs every Saturday at 11:00 a.m., 11:40 a.m., 12:20 p.m., and 1:00 p.m. from the Randolph and Wabash Chicago Transit Authority elevated train station.

For more information on the Loop Tour Train call, (312)744-2400 or visit www.cityofchicago.org/ExploringChicago.

If you know of any other free and fun places to visit or things to do around town that you would like to share with others, please give us a call or send details to News@bcochicago.org.

Spin around the 40th Ward Highlights of Town Hall Meeting - May 15, 2006

- Bowmanville is part of the 20th Police District and our neighborhood continues to enjoy one of the lowest record of criminal activity in the City of Chicago.
- The Griffin Theater has entered into an agreement with the City of Chicago to purchase the property on Foster Avenue that used to house the 20th District Chicago Police station.
- A new traffic light is scheduled to be installed at the intersection of Western-Berwyn/Bowmanville which should help ease some of the traffic congestion there.
- The "Shared Sidewalk Program" is still available. If interested, contact Alderman O'Connor's office directly at (773)769-1140.
- Chicago vehicle stickers may be purchased at Alderman O'Connor's office, 5850 N. Lincoln Avenue, on June 8th and July 6th from 10:00 a.m. To 6:00 p.m. (check or money order only payable to Office of the City Clerk).

Hi Neighbors,

Here is a look at some statistics for the past 3 years.

For 2006, based on average sale prices, I'm seeing a steady increase for Single Family Houses & 2-4 Flats, and a leveling for Condos and Townhomes. Our neighborhood is experiencing a lot of activity and I would expect 2006 to be a banner year.

**Buying or Selling,
I Can Help!**

Real Estate Sales in Bowmanville: 2003 thru 2005

	2003	2004	2005	% Change '04 - '05
Houses Sold*:	19	20	15*	
Average Price:	\$414,700	\$420,250	\$457,600	9%
Average Days to Sell:	41	45	105	
Condo/Townhomes Sold:	31	31	31	
Average Price:	\$263,950	\$305,250	\$339,700	11%
Average Days to Sell:	91	62	78	
2 - 4 Flats Sold:	12	14	14	
Average Price:	\$431,450	\$452,250	\$510,450	13%
Average Days to Sell:	64	76	59	

Some figures have been rounded.
*Excludes New construction

Data Source: Multiple Listing Service of Northern Illinois



Jeff Graves - GRI II
YOUR BOWMANVILLE REALTOR



312.475.3228 Direct
312.266.7000 Office
1840 N. Clark St. Chicago, IL 60614



Check out...
BowmanvilleLiving.com



Dining in and about Bowmanville*

One of the great things about living in the city is that restaurants are within walking distance. Residents of Bowmanville have a variety of eating establishments to choose from in terms of atmosphere, ethnicity and price range. In no particular order, the eating establishments are:

Yes Thai (5211 Damen, 878-3487) - This BYOB Thai restaurant offers friendly service and affordable cuisine in a cozy, intimate atmosphere. The menu offers traditional Thai options like chicken with warm peanut sauce, spring rolls and mixed vegetable stirfry with steamed rice. Dining al fresco is available during the warm weather. **Hours:** 11:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 11:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 3 p.m.-9 p.m. Sunday. Meals typically cost less than \$10.

Dorado (2301 W. Foster, 561-3780) - This cozy storefront features a festive, colorful dining room that's accented with Latin-flaired artifacts and artwork. Bestsellers include the creamy corn soup with green onions and crabmeat, and the roasted pork tenderloin with Cajun sweet potatoes and brandied guajillo pepper cream sauce. **Hours:** 5-10 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 5-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 4-9 p.m. Sunday; closed Monday. Meals cost between \$15 and \$25.

Pauline's (1754 W. Balmoral, 561-8573) - This diner is decorated with posters and memorabilia, and has games on the tables and daily specials on the blackboard behind the counter. This is a traditional neighborhood restaurant that's worth a visit for the killer pancakes and omelets. **Hours:** 6 a.m.-3 p.m. seven days a week. Meals cost less than \$10.

Volunteers Needed

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

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Leadway Bar and Gallery (5233 N. Damen, 728-2663) - In addition to serving food and drinks, this bar also features live music and an art gallery. Typical bar food is served as well as pork chops, quesadillas and salads. **Hours:** 4 p.m.-2 a.m. Sunday through Friday; 4 p.m.-3 a.m. Saturday. Meals cost less than \$10.

San Soo Gap San (5247 N. Western, 334-1589) - Traditional Korean fare and sushi are offered daily at side-by-side restaurants. A dozen or more sides--green onions, glass noodles, kimchee, beets, fish, bean sprouts, baby bok choy, rice and more--accompany marinated meats such as beef short rib, ribeye, pork, chicken and adventurous options like broiled octopus or squid. **Hours:** 9:30-6 a.m. daily. Meals cost less than \$10.

Bobbie's (5305 N. Damen, 271-6488) - Typical bar food: sandwiches, chili and daily specials.

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Pauline's Celebrates 10-Year Anniversary

Congratulations go out to Ron and Pauline Messier, owners of Pauline's Restaurant, as they celebrate 10-years of "serving" our community. Pauline's is located at 1754 W. Balmoral Avenue (Balmoral and Ravenswood) and is known for its generous servings and cozy atmosphere.



Ron and Pauline are Bowmanville residents and are devoted supporters of the Bowmanville Community Organization. They have generously contributed to the organization in many ways, including pioneering the first community garden now located on Bowmanville and Leavitt, initiating and hosting the very first Halloween event out of their garage on Summerdale, host the Volunteer Recognition celebration every year, and generously providing the ice cream for the BCO Ice Cream Social, which is celebrated annually and enjoyed by many.

Stop by Pauline's to offer your congratulations on their 10-year anniversary and thank them for all they do for our community.

Read more about Pauline's in the next Bowmanville Bee.

Building Blocks for a Safer Neighborhood

By Cindy Burgin*



Get to know your neighbors – Place a high priority on building good relationships with your neighbors. Only by knowing who lives in the surrounding area can you know when a stranger is hanging around. Also, neighbors are a great security system – if you have to go out of town, having someone keep an eye on your home can keep you from becoming a victim of crime.

Form a neighborhood/block watch – Keeping an eye out for crime is an important way you can help build a safer neighborhood. Communicating with your neighbors provides an opportunity to become more aware of one another's concerns, discuss issues and decide whether some collective activity is needed to address issues and concerns locally.

Attend your local Beat (CAPS) meeting – Attending Beat meetings ensures you and your neighbors that the issues, concerns and problems of your block become a part of the problem-solving process on your Beat. These meetings also provide residents the opportunity to identify and discuss trends that may be emerging in a neighborhood even if you have not experienced particular problems on your block.

Work on a common project – Working a community garden or cleaning the block several times a year not only

makes the block more attractive for all residents, it can make it unattractive for criminals. It sends a message to everyone that the families of the block are concerned about the well-being of their children and neighbors and are committed to working together.

Celebrate – Holding annual Summer (or Fall, Winter and Spring) block parties gives neighbors a chance to relax and enjoy the friendships they have built in the community and to acknowledge the accomplishments the families on the block have achieved.

Get involved – Getting involved in neighborhood activities allows you to get to know your neighbors, both locally and within the community as a whole. If you haven't already, join the Bowmanville Community Organization. Your membership helps tie the community together in many ways and enlists you as a resident of the, "Safest place to live in the City of Chicago."

*Information provided directly from the Chicago Police Department publication, *Safe Neighborhoods are Everybody's Business*.

Bowmanville Buzz...



Bowmanville's very own **Nadia Oehlsen** of Berwyn Avenue will have her first book published by Globe/Pequot Press entitled, "The Cheap Bastard's Guide to Chicago". Keep your eye on the local book stores for its release this Fall. Congratulations Nadia!



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Rolling Property Tax Revolt 2006

By Tax Reform Action Coalition (TRAC)

As the reassessment notices are “rolling” through the mail and our neighborhood, TRAC wants to keep these frightening increases on the front burner. TRAC wants our state and local officials to “see” these increases. TRAC wants the media to grasp the level of concern from all Cook County property owners.

What **you** can do to help this effort –

- Make a copy of your assessment notice.
- Figure out your assessment increase and write it on your copied assessment notice (Subtract the old assessed value from the new figure. Divide the difference by the old assessed value = % of increase).
- Add the name of your state representative and alderman.
- Send the copy to TRAC either by US mail (867 W. Buckingham Place, Chicago 60657) or fax (773-472-2507). (You may remove your name but please leave the PIN number and address.

TRAC will be sending the copies they receive to our elected officials and the media on a weekly basis until the last notices come out in November. This is the “Rolling Revolt of ‘06”. Help us keep this issue on the front burner from spring all the way through the fall. Let them hear you— loud and clear!

The Tax Reform Action Coalition, founded in 2000, is a community-based advocacy Group whose mission is to reform the property tax system in Illinois, making it fair and predictable for all property owners and whose goal is to educate our communities and elected officials about the need for significant property tax reform. To encourage our elected representatives to enact legislation that improves the way properties are assessed.

If you would like to read more about the history and work that TRAC has been and is currently involved in, please visit www.trac-il.org.

You can also check the BCO website for TRAC updates - www.bcochicago.org - or call the BCO hotline at (866) 837-1006 with questions.

BCO Arts Festival 2006



The Bowmanville Community Organization will be hosting its first annual outdoor Arts Festival on Sunday, September 10, 2006.

This is your chance to showcase your talent(s). Media will include ceramics, drawing, fibers, digital art, paper, furniture, glass, jewelry, painting, sculpture, wood, photography, etc.

If you are interested in exhibiting, contact the BCO at www.bcochicago.org or call toll free -866-837-1006

Community-wide Picnic with a “Twist”

The BCO just set plans for a new twist (pardon the ice cream pun!) for our annual Ice Cream Social!



This year the event will held from 5 until 9 p.m. in the evening on **Saturday, July 22nd**, and will be expanded to incorporate the Ice Cream Social preceded by a community-wide “Picnic.”

Residents can bring their choice of food and beverage and picnic with friends and neighbors. Please feel free to bring a dessert to share with members of the community, which will be placed on our dessert table, as well as enjoy some complimentary ice cream that will also be served.

There will also be entertainment and games. Look for more information on our web site at www.bcochicago.org.

Bowmanville Babysitter Network

Need a babysitter or want to meet other local families? Join the Bowmanville Babysitter Network. The network began with a group of families with children in Bowmanville who needed babysitters.



They shared their resources and now the network has grown into a group that meets for play dates and social outings. There are no fees to join and no dues to pay. If you feel you could benefit from becoming a member of this network, contact **Alexa Dunn** at (773)334-1107 or email her at ard212@sbcglobal.net.

Alexa Reimer-Dunn, Realtor®
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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)
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3.5"W X 2"H

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

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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 p.m. 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

Volunteer Recruitment Wine & Cheese Party - Sunday, June 11th, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m., 5416 N. Hoyne

Garden clean-up days: Second Wednesday of each month starting June 14th, 6:30 p.m. until dark; and fourth Saturday of each month, starting June 24th, 9:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

BCO Picnic and Ice Cream Social - Saturday, July 22, 2006, 5:00 - 9:00 PM

BCO Garden Walk - Saturday, August 5, 2006

BCO Arts Festival - Sunday, September 10, 2006

Check BCO website for last minute updates and details

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 _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

Email _____

Renewal New Member Committee I'd serve on: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!