

The BCO is initiating the **Know Your Neighbors! Bowmanville Block Club program**. This is an opportunity for our great community to improve its communication by building a sense of community on our blocks one by one. Individuals are currently being invited to assume the responsibility of “Block Captain” for their respective block to aid in the ongoing communication and neighborhood watch in our growing community.

If you don’t know who your block captain is – then we probably need one for your block! Volunteer or find a neighbor willing to assume this role – that is the first step. Blocks are defined for this program as a square block with shared alleys. See the Bowmanville block map for examples.

In order to initiate this program, the BCO is suggesting that Block Captains visit each household on their block to collect basic contact information for neighbors. The goal is to bring neighbors together on both social and safety levels while enhancing our already family-friendly community. Contact information collected will be maintained solely by the block captains (not by the BCO) and used for communication amongst your block only. Below are a few advantages to being part of the Know Your Neighbors! Bowmanville Block Club network:

- Improved communication among neighbors – get to **know your neighbors!**
- Neighbor/neighborhood involvement
- Shared community concerns and events (break-ins, suspicious activity, unwanted solicitation, infrastructure issues, Block Parties, Book Clubs, Happy Hours, etc)
- Educational Opportunities
- Availability of resources to enhance our community - i.e., the BCO, Alderman O’Connor’s office, CAPS/police, access to block specific CLEARpath data (online city resource)
- Build relationships within community including your neighboring blocks

Collectively, we can all make a difference in building a better community whether that be improving crime prevention, beautifying our own blocks, sharing relevant concerns and events and most simply, **getting to know and help one another.**

Types of things you may want to be in contact with your block captain about:

- Suspected criminal activity or any suspicious activity (call 911 first, then let your block captain know so neighbors can be alerted)
- Infrastructure problems (call 311 or other city resources first, then let your block captain know so they can have other neighbors call as well)
- Graffiti, loitering (call 311/911 first, then let your block captain know so they can have other neighbors call as well)
- Social activities (planning block parties, meet-ups, neighbors grouping together to attend BCO events or CAPS meetings, anything is possible).

Block Captains will proactively share information they are aware of with you. They will be in contact with other block captains, the BCO, and various city resources to help keep your neighbors informed and in touch with one another.

Please keep for your records:

YOUR BLOCK CAPTAIN:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

To become a block captain, or for more information call 1-866-837-1006 or email [membership@bcochicago.org](mailto:membership@bcochicago.org) . You can also contact us via Facebook [www.facebook.com/bcochicago](http://www.facebook.com/bcochicago) or the BCO website [www.bcochicago.org](http://www.bcochicago.org) .