

Bowmanville Bee

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



Holiday 2006

Who's who in the BCO



OFFICERS

President

ELLEN JURCZAK

President@bcochicago.org

Vice President

JEFF GRAVES

VP@bcochicago.org



Secretary & Communications

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Treasurer

CRAIG HANENBURG

Treasurer@bcochicago.org

COMMITTEES

Events

Position Open

Events@bcochicago.org



Gardening

Position Open

Gardening@bcochicago.org

Membership

Position Open

Membership@bcochicago.org

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Newsletter

CINDY BURGIN

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Elba Acevedo

Janet Ahlgren

David Bevan

Ernestine Bettini

Alexa Dunn

Kelly Hague

Jim Hannon

Heidi Kafka

Elif Martinez

Betty Redmond

Eloise Reimer

Claire Shingler



Happy Holidays



Letter from the President

By Ellen Jurczak

BCO executives 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's plans to purchase property on the west side of Rosehill Cemetery are still in progress. The owners contend that the City has requested too much property and the judge has yet to make a decision on this matter. Alderman O'Connor was not able to give us a date by which the decision will be made.

The site plan is complete for the proposed Griffin Theater. Once the rendering of the exterior is complete, they must submit it to the City and the sale can be finalized. The decision is not yet final but the Griffin is making steady progress and the City is working with them to help make their project a reality.

Traffic-related Issues

The bump-out at Berwyn and Bowmanville is complete and has been landscaped. The City donated plants and B.A. Church, a Bowmanville resident on Berwyn, devoted much time and energy to planting and maintaining this area. Many thanks to B.A. for her generosity!

A crosswalk with a cutout has been installed at Balmoral and Ravenswood for RPMS students. In addition, signs indicating it is a school zone and speed limit signs have been posted. The police have been asked to control traffic at the intersection of Balmoral, Leavitt, and Bowmanville by occasionally spotting a car nearby.

BCO executives meet with Alderman O'Connor quarterly and the next meeting will be in February. If you have comments or questions about the projects described in this article, or there are issues you would like BCO representatives to discuss at our next meeting with the alderman, please e-mail via our website (www.bcochicago.org) or leave a message on the BCO hotline: 1-866-837-1006.

The BCO Board joins me in wishing you and your family a happy holiday season!

2006, The BCO Year in Review

BCO accomplishments of the past year:

- Keeping residents aware of tax appeal procedures and the status of the renewal of the 7% cap on real estate taxes.
- Met with Alderman Patrick O'Connor on a quarterly basis and informed residents of the results of these meetings through articles in the Bee.
- The BCO Garden Committee won first place for our region in Mayor Daley's Landscape Awards Program
- Received a \$320 GreenNet grant which was used to build a small retaining wall.
- Received free mulch from the city and applied it to the Bowmanville Garden.
- Supported neighbors who planted the bump-out at Berwyn and Bowmanville.
- Set up and maintained the BCO toll-free number
- Created the new electronic *eBee* newsletter that was sent during months the *Bee* wasn't published
- Coordinated the Neighborhood Picnic/Ice Cream Social and the Halloween Party
- Informed neighbors of three proposed developments on Foster that would have required zoning changes
- Acquired trees donated by Target for Damen Avenue
- Supported another successful Yard Sale and Garden Walk

BCO Board for 2007 to include both familiar and unfamiliar faces

By Jay Rehak

The new slate of BCO Board Members for 2006-2007 was unanimously approved at the Annual Election meeting on October 19, 2006. The well attended meeting was held on the second floor of the Rogers Park Montessori School at 1800 W. Balmoral. Both veteran and first time members were elected to the new BCO Board. Ellen Jurczak will be returning as President of the BCO for a second year, while Board member Jeff Graves will replace outgoing Vice-President Mark Soehn, who has moved out of the neighborhood. Scott Galassini will again serve as the BCO Secretary and Craig Hanenburg will serve as Treasurer for the upcoming year.

The Bowmanville Community Organization Directors for 2006 - 2007 include newly elected members Elba Acevedo, Jan Ahlgren, David Bevan, Alexa Dunn, Kelly Hague, Jim Hannon, Heidi Kafka, Elif Martinez, and Claire Shingler. Returning Board members include Ernestine Bettini and Betty Redmond.

At the October 19th meeting, President Jurczak and the Board thanked outgoing Directors Tom Kennedy, Jay Rehak, Judy Andersen, Julie Hart, and Elsa Vaintzettel for their efforts on behalf of the BCO and the neighborhood.

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 or committee chairs listed in this Bee.



Drake & Son Funeral Home

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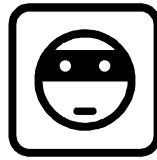
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Protecting yourself against identity theft

- Part 2*

By Mark C. Soehn



Secure your number

Your most important personal identifier is your Social Security number (SSN). Guard it carefully. Never carry your Social Security card with you unless you'll need it. The same goes for other forms of identification (for example, health insurance cards) that display your SSN. If your state uses your SSN as your driver's license number, request an alternate number.

Don't have your SSN preprinted on your checks, and don't let merchants write it on your checks. Don't give it out over the phone unless you initiate the call to an organization you trust. Ask the three major credit reporting agencies to truncate it on your credit reports. Try to avoid listing it on employment applications; offer instead to provide it during a job interview.

Don't leave home with it

Most of us carry our checkbooks and all of our credit cards, debit cards, and telephone cards with us all the time. That's a bad idea; if your wallet or purse is stolen, the thief will have a treasure chest of new toys to play with.

Carry only the cards and/or checks you'll need for any one trip. And keep a written record of all your account numbers, credit card expiration dates, and the telephone numbers of the customer service and fraud departments in a secure place--at home.

Keep your receipts

When you make a purchase with a credit or debit card, you're given a receipt. Don't throw it away or leave it behind; it may contain your credit or debit card number. And don't leave it in the shopping bag inside your car while you continue shopping; if your car is broken into and the item you bought is stolen, your identity may be as well.

Save your receipts until you can check them against your monthly credit card and bank statements, and watch your statements for purchases you didn't make.

When you toss it, shred it

Before you throw out any financial records such as credit or debit card receipts and statements, cancelled checks, or even offers for credit you receive in the mail, shred the documents, preferably with a cross-cut shredder. If you don't, you may find the panhandler going through your dumpster was looking for more than discarded leftovers.

Keep a low profile

The more your personal information is available to others, the more likely you are to be victimized by identity theft.

While you don't need to become a hermit in a cave, there are steps you can take to help minimize your exposure:

- To stop telephone calls from national telemarketers, list your telephone number with the Federal Trade Commission's National Do Not Call Registry by calling (888) 382-1222 or registering online at www.donotcall.gov.
- To remove your name from most national mailing and e-mailing lists, as well as most telemarketing lists, write the Direct Marketing Association at 1120 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036-6700, or register online at www.dmaconsumers.org.
- To remove your name from marketing lists prepared by the three national consumer reporting agencies, call (888) 567-8688 or register online at www.optoutprescreen.com.
- When given the opportunity to do so by your bank, investment firm, insurance company, and credit card companies, opt out of allowing them to share your financial information with other organizations.
- You may even want to consider having your name and address removed from the telephone book and reverse directories.

Never provide any personal information via phone, letter, or e-mail unless you initiated the transaction. Legitimate businesses should already have your information on file, and will not call you or e-mail you to ask for it.

Part 3: Take a byte out of crime

Part 4: Recovering from identity theft

Part 5: Credit agencies can help



Mark C. Soehn, is a Principal at Financial Solutions Advisory Group, Inc.

Frosty Fest



Want to enjoy some great local artists performing in a kid friendly concert? Come join RPMS at the Abbey Pub (3420 West Grace St, at Elston) on Sunday December 17 from 1-4 p.m. for winter music and craft fun for the whole family. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$2 for kids.



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Summerdale on the Big Screen

By Ashley Knight



On a cold, windy day early this year, Summerdale residents gathered on porches and sidewalks to watch a film crew post American flags up and down the 2100 block. Not-quite-right Chicago police cars were lined up on Hoyne and too-thin Chicago cops stood waiting for their brief turns in front of the camera. A British film company had posted flyers informing the neighborhood of the filming of something called "D.O.A.P." and it stirred the block from winter cocooning for a few hours that afternoon.

"Death of a President" has now been released in the U.S. and Canada and received the International Critics Prize at the Toronto Film Festival. The local screening at the Music Box Theater was extended past the original one-week schedule as the controversial movie made headlines around the world.

2100 Summerdale is portrayed as a Chicago city block on the Fourth of July 2008. The shots of the Summerdale houses are brief and near the end of the film, but the location is central to one of the turning points of the story. If you missed the extended run at the Music Box, keep an eye out for its release on DVD as it would be worth it to see Summerdale at the center of a national conspiracy.

Dog needs a loving home.

A male Fox Terrier - Jack Russell mix, about 13 pounds). He is lively and very friendly with adults, children and other dogs. He is about 2 1/2 years old, healthy, vaccinated and neutered. For more information, please contact robertiam@sbcglobal.net.



Bowmanville Buzz...

Bowmanville Garden Is a Winner!



Please join us in congratulating **Tom Kennedy** recipient of Neighbor Space's Gardener of the Year Award. (visit Neighbor Space website at www.neighbor-space.org/pg_bowmanville.htm to read more) Tom has held the position of Chairman of the Bowmanville Community Garden for many years. He and the Garden Committee members have been instrumental in creating and maintaining community garden space in several geographic areas within Bowmanville. Congratulations, Tom!

"Great things happen when people work together. Life changing things. Life affirming things. Our gardens are a small example of this."

Tom Kennedy

Congratulations also go out to all Garden Committee members for winning first place in the Community Landscapes, Region 2 category of the 2006 Mayor Daley's Landscape Awards Program

Search Begins for New Chappell Principal

By Heidi Kafka



The Local School Council at Chappell Elementary has begun receiving resumes for a new Principal to be hired for a 4 year contract starting in the 2007-2008 school year. Dr. Bruce Allman, who has been the principal at Chappell for eight years is retiring at the end of the current school year. Progress on the principal search, and other school news, is discussed at each monthly school council meeting. The Chappell LSC meets the first Wednesday of every month at 3:00 p.m.. The meetings are open to the public.

Amundsen LSC Update

Amundsen High School Local School Council meetings are open to the public and are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:00 P.M.

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Community Garden News - November 2006

By Tom Kennedy

The Bowmanville Community Garden was created in 1996 as a project of The Bowmanville Community Organization. With Greencorps Chicago and an outpouring of help from the neighborhood residents, an area that was neglected and used for fly dumping was transformed into a beautiful garden. Neighborhood volunteers maintain this garden.

Our Bowmanville Community Garden provides a very visible and tangible presence in the Bowmanville neighborhood. People are reminded of community and nature. We take pride in working together for a good purpose and enhancing life in our community.

Our garden has a natural and comfortable feel and people take advantage of a pleasant walk and a rest on our bench. In March of 2006, we received a GreenNet mini-grant to build a small retaining wall, of flagstone, in front of our center flowerbed. It was completed in July. This will stop erosion and enable us to level the path in front of this bed. The stone will add another element of nature to our beautiful garden. In June, we added a fresh layer of mulch throughout the garden to promote water retention and to discourage weed growth.

Maintenance days were scheduled for the second Wednesday evening and the fourth Saturday of every month during the gardening season, April through October. This schedule was posted on the BCO website calendar. Be sure to check www.bcochicag.org, for garden meeting and work dates in the new year.

Ellen Jurczack, as a BCO representative, participated in a Chicago Conservation Corp program to benefit the Bowmanville Garden. This group promotes environmentally positive and responsible practices. This includes ways to make the garden more sustainable and less labor intensive.



Our Bowmanville Garden won 1st Place in the Community Landscapes, Region 2 category of the 2006 Mayor Daley's Landscape Awards Program. This is a wonderful honor and we as a neighborhood can feel very proud. Alderman O'Connor supports our efforts and sent his congratulations.

Our Gateway Garden, which brightens a neglected area under the Metra tracks at Balmoral, came into existence in 2003. We are currently working with Rogers Park

Montessori School to have the gas company fix the elements that were destroyed during construction of gas lines. Next year should be a brighter year for the Gateway Garden.

Come out and join us for some positive community activity and help our community grow.

Winter Gardening Tips

- ✓ Examine the exposed structure of shrubs and trees for necessary pruning. Look for broken, dead or crossing branches that touch each other.
- ✓ Clear heavy snowfall from shrubs and evergreens. Exercise care when applying salt to sidewalks that border your planting area.



Rogers Park Montessori Tree Journals

By Kelly Velasquez-Hague



*The land is where our roots are.
The children must be taught to feel and live in harmony
with the Earth. – Maria Montessori*

Interaction with nature is core to the Montessori educational experience. Maria Montessori believed that children learn best when they can explore, in a hands-on environment, and relate their classroom learning to the world around them. By coming into regular contact with the outdoors, children understand about the Earth and how to live in harmony with our environment.

At Rogers Park Montessori School, one small way that the students interact with nature is through the use of Tree Journals. Each student is assigned a personal tree. That "tree" is "theirs" to study for the entire school year. Every other week, the elementary classes take a nature walk in the various community gardens to visit their tree. They will even venture out in the winter months to watch their trees!

The students use journals to record seasonal changes in the tree, sketch the tree parts, identify botanical terms, note wildlife and insects, and express their feelings about their individual trees. One teacher says that many of her students often talk to and touch their trees. A special bond occurs between the student and their tree; a connection with the Earth is formed.

We want to thank both our Bowmanville and West Andersonville neighborhoods for the gorgeous garden spaces that are community accessible. We are so lucky to have a home where green space and nature are incorporated into the community landscaping plans. It opens up so many educational opportunities for the students – many thanks.

So, if you see children sitting and writing next to trees, it is Tree Journals and learning in hands-on Montessori fashion.



SAFETY ALERT

Area Three Detective Division

November 9, 2006



Chicago Police are investigating several incidents in which offenders have used various ruses to gain entry to residences and rob victims. The offenders have posed as utility company employees (water, electric or gas workers), tree cutters, and/or construction contractors claiming they need to make repairs to a fence, gate or other property. Once inside, one offender distracts the victim while one or more additional offenders search for property to take. On one occasion, the victims were physically accosted by the offenders. Police are investigating seven incidents that occurred between Oct. 15 and Nov. 3, 2006. Offenses have occurred in the 2300 block of North Bosworth, the 3600 block of North Hoyne, the 800 block of West Oakdale, the 1200 block of West Winona, the 5900 block of North Sacramento, the 2800 Block of West Touhy, and the 1600 block of West Catalpa in the Andersonville neighborhood.

What You Can Do:

Verify the identity of anyone seeking entry into your residence. Ask for identification and/or company ID cards from anyone at your door requesting entry. Write down vehicle information and suspect description information for any suspicious people. Contact police with information.

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BCO Halloween Party was a “chillingly” good time!

By Scott Galassini

When we said it would send cold shivers down your spine, the cold snap wasn't exactly what we had in mind! But the blustery conditions couldn't dampen the spirits of a group of enthusiastic Bowmanville residents who showed up for the BCO Halloween Party on Saturday, October 28th. The party was held in the green space next to Rosehill Cemetery at Bowmanville and Bell.

Many creatively costumed Bowmanville residents participated in the Costume Parade. There were so many great costumes the judges decided to award more prizes than initially planned!

The winners of prizes for **best costumes** were:



Ethan Edland
Painton Jete
Andy Lundborg
Paili Bachrach
Ellie Martinez
Catherine Shingler
Rosa Vazquez
Marion Bare
Fiona Miller

Astronaut
Darth Vader
Green Zombie
Zombie Girl
Little Devil Girl
Jack 'O' Lantern
Vampire Bat Girl
Harry Potter
“Pinkest” costume



Best Adult Costume: Martin & Sue Wallner Beach Family

Kids' Costume raffle: Alexis Malone School girl
Charlie Blumenthal Zorro
Vanessa Vazquez Princess

Congratulations to all the winners! Great job on the costumes, everyone!

Frequent raffle drawings helped warm up the crowd even more. The raffle winners were:

Raffle Winners:	Rick Belber	Nichole Zeri
Restaurant Certificates	Nancy Buttitta	Todd Shingler
	Sarge Andrews	Bob Faborito
	Heidi Barnes	

Hi neighbors,

I would just like to express my sincere best wishes to the Bowmanville Community this holiday season. This is a time to rejoice and be glad for being surrounded by such great Neighbors and Business owners.

As winter sets in, I can hardly wait to see the first snow fall and see all the kids come out to throw snowballs and make snowmen. Okay, so a few adults come out too, but they'll spend time shoveling out parking spaces and arranging old chairs to 'mark' their territory; a great Chicago tradition!

Spring is never really that far behind and we should cherish all of our seasons. So wrap yourselves up and enjoy this wonderful time of the year. And if you should recognize me under my hat and scarf.

Don't be shy - Say HI!

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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

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Card \$20 (with artwork)
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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!

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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

BCO Yard Sale - June 2007, exact date to be announced

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.

*Please support our advertisers & Business Members.
Without their support, this newsletter and our community
events would not be possible
Thank you!*

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.

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